HENRY DARGER -

"THE REALMS OF THE UNREAL"

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WAR RAGES ON.

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By H. J. [illegible]

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CHAPTER ONE/

WHAT GERTRUDE ANGELINE INTENDS TO DO.
AND ENTERTAINING ANGELS UNAWARES.
ONE OF THE GIRLSCOUTS IS MORTALLY WOUNDED DURING AN
ADVENTURE....."."

Asregards the Gertrude Angeline family of girlscouts, everything was as before in the chapter just past.The children noticed the flood growing.in size and depth,and Angeline richee because of dangers lurking in flood, fire, uncertain u conditions of the land and because of the enemy roving around became the model head of the whole column. she was employed to do most of the directing and commanding, and actually started plans of her own.

Early that morning Angeline Richee being up before any one of the whole camp aroused Gertrude and with shining eyes told her how her leaders had worked hard to secure the raft,and that there was ninty nine of the leaders willing to do anything, and how she was thinking that day of moving to some more secure place by means of the raft, where the surroundings would be health ier and better, and where they might find a better means to getting to the army under Emperor Vivian.Angeline had set her heart on moving by water first for the direction of Phelantonburg which she believed was only ten miles away.

"It's so near Cedernine Creek." she said" nd then joan lead the way after reciving Communion which we do every day having always a priest with us.It seems a short way but a trip in which we'll have to keep our eyes open."

Before breakfast she made a tour of the neighborhood, and during breakfast said to Gertrude with dancing eyes.

"Oh Gertrude I've found the very place we could set off to with our raft. You know where the flood takes an eaterly bend!"

"Very well Angeline!"

"We can move out for Phelantonburg from that location by to morrow.I'm going to bring Miss Turner there to scout, and I'm sure she'll take that rout.Then we'll head for the city, hoping of course it is not flooded, and nearly all our girl leaders will agree to the same.There are no nicer girls anywhere than in our squadron."

But way after breakfast, the morning which had been so full of good promise, brought its heavy disappointment. The flood broke through some obstruction unseen by them, and swept away all their hopes, and they had a desperate battle to save their swamped camp, and prevent their raft from getting away on them, yet through the efforts of Angeline Richee and alle the cavarly squad squa squadron, evening was brought on, and they all went on sooner than they expected upon the flood by raft.Angeline Richee with saddened face said that all her hopes for her plans were abandoned.

"The old story.!"

"Yes "said Angeline as she watched the boys paddle their end of the raft, "The flood broke through somewhere and no wonder we were swamped.It's a wonder all of us were not drowned.But nevertheless it is not so bad Ger- trude.We saved our camp equipage and the raft, and Gertrude do you know what!"

"What is it!"

"Can't you guess!"

"We'll arive at Phelantonburg after all!"

"Phelantonburg."Angeline laughed, for she was now sufficiently advanced in her thoughtsto understand the situation."I'm afraid our plan for reaching that city is heading for the breakers now.But it is almost as good as heade ing for that city.Gertrude, I believe we can reach a land of hills far from the fires, and by no to night."

"Thank God and His Blessed Mother if we do." Gertrude said, scanning the sea of waters.full of floating debris.

"Amen." murmured Angeline"And Gertrude Joan wants to go to Calverine as soon as she can get her furlough."

"But why Angeline.The girls here are kindness themselves to her, she couldn't get better treatment anywhere,and besides to go to Calverine now is impossible.All communications are cut off."

"Yes Gertrude, she says so herself.But you see also we need her. she knows how to guide us too, and she thinks if she is with her she can get us all to reach our destination before the end of August this being now the mi middle of July.The situation of the flood here is not so awful bad you know and with this powerful raft we ought to be able to make it till we get out of range of the fires, but I guess it'll be a more thrilling trip than trip than we'll ever expect."

"Ai Ididnit them think of it."

After consulting with the other girlscout leaders, and assuring themselves that Phelantonburg was at of danger from the flood, they decided to make

for the first place proposed by Angeline Richees. On looking through her Glasses Angeline found out also from others, that the flood was more swifter than usual, and that there was no further thought of moving to that section of the land. The good plan seemed to be of no avail. And no matter how far the raft went they could not see anything on land but smoke, smoke, smoke, and more of it, and in perfect rolling walls.. They wondered if the fire was racing them, or were they following it.

It was then by reason of this unlooked for disaster, that Angeline Richee again came to the rescue proving she was a good guide at that. There was in her own girlscout troop an organization of girlscouts which, h she felt she could rely on more. She held a council with them, and gave an account of the case to all of them with an energy of an orater, and they all took up the matter with a cleverness which even their young years did not hinder.

They had many trained girlscouts among them, and one was sent on the eastern side of the raft to keep a close watch on the shore, and this girl scout herself, Mary Stanck watched everything, and reported that she believed by night fall they might be able to make a landing. So far they had not encountered any dangerous floats in the water, and the boys always kept the water in front of the raft clear of floating debris.

This trip indeed proved to be the most momentuous in the history of christian girlscouts it was also the year for them made illustrious by the great and unspeakable disasters of the war. Soon however they came to great obstructions in the water such as floating planks, trees, trunks and all floes and all the boys and many of the girls even the little ones from eight to nine and upwards- even the soldiers worked with picks and long poles and sticks to clear the way as their progress was now blocked. The men were excited. The horses were kept in the middle of the big raft, and the wagons too. Previously to the beginning of this second trip on the flood only the boys who were good at the paddle were allowed to do the work. There were many of this age, still not doing any work there being not enough paddles and they were not able to do it. Fortunately the raft was immense in size and the array of boys and girls varying in age from six to fourteen years worked now like mad to clear the front of the raft so they could proceed. For a time it seemed in vain and after a prayer, Gertrude motioned the youngest of them to retire from the edge of the raft, and let the elders do the work.

Despite the adventure it was a pretty sight, all the girl and boy scouts were intensely interested and in earnest, especially the littler children of 'sen seven and eight, and not at all afraid.

Gertrude was to learn during this day of adventure on the raft, which adventure went on for some ten hours, that the smaller girl and boyscouts were quicker to take in the situation of their adventure and the nature of the flood, than the boy and girlscouts from thirteen to fifteen. They were even more careful of their uniforms, their uniforms were less spotted by spalshes of muddy water, and in consequence, as Gertrude and her leaders believed they took in all that was going on about them, watching every floating object with an ease and simplicity not to be expected naturally from minds so young.

During all these hours of the trip on the flood, the attention of the smaller children was more perfect. Once it a while it was necessary for the girl leaders to say a word of warning to an overgrown boy paddler, b when he did not observe a big tree floating tward the raft, but the littler ones were perfect, and fought of the tree with sticks and pikes. The six hundred of them all however were so quiet, that one if they had not seen it would would have thought the raft was floating off with only wagons and horses and m n on it. The pushing away of obstructions and wreckage proved off course a great help, and it was impossible therefore for the raft to encounter any obstruction that might push it off its course or turn it bottom upward, as once already had been the case...

It was however an inspiring force of girlscouts. All were in dead earnest with their work save two or three bigger boy or girls especially Jane. The former had been a girlscout of long commission as a leader, and had contracted the taste of adventure of whatever the risk--or rather the want of it,--she was not exactly rash or reckless but determined and desperate, will do a thing no matter what the cost---which comes of too much bravery-and she also had been led to concieve an exaggerated opinion of her own courage, and spent much of her time in wondering what would happen if all girls and boys did not become like her. This pitiful girlscout should have trained like she was being trained by her superior Mildred earlier. she would it seemed made a better candidate for the morgue than for girlscout work, and why she wasn't there now was only by a miracle. Thanks to the training of Mildred Maxwell Jane was becoming better, not so reckless and more watchful and now Mildred was with her all the time while they were on the raft.

Of all the girlscout leaders however on this great adventure the result which will be stated later, there was one who stood out prominently as leader, and that one was Angeline Richee.

. . . . .

Angeline never lost sight of anything before or beside her, nor lost no word her followers uttered whether it be various suggestions or advices about the logging, wreckage and floating trees and houses, and she would grasp the idea at once. Even any question or proposed would find her when all else were strangely puzzled, ready to make answer. This was to prove that no kind of girlscout instructors had failed to teach the child scouts scouts at the earliest conviscence, while also training the heart to develope the intellect, than all scout duties, and also of Christian poctrine which girlscouts because of their dangerous commission as well as boys needed more than common school children. Even to be a girlscout or a boyscout the children must know their Arith etic more than normal, they must be properly taught on it, as that is usually very necsec necessary for the scout work too.

The same may be said of teaching them to know all kinds of signal flags, understand the signals, be able to answer, and this is usually successful as it does engage the interest of every boy or girl. But mainly they needed al all the results of their instructions here on this raft, while not a thing of absorbing interest just now, was necessary as it did not only appeal both to reason imagination, but that it was a perilous undertaking that takes the training of wits and cautiousness and especially good "Eye work" work not for near sighted persons.

Logic poetry, did not need to come in this share at this time, and any child teacher who knows how to be interesting, had discovered very early in his, or her vocation that he or she can best gauge the intellectual gifts of his little soldier pupils in hearing them ask and answer questions about all their own kind of work, and of the nature of war, the works of the military, how to scout, spy, and recoinetre and so forth during the time devoted to the study of these most important branches of the christian armies.

Other things being equal, the child scouts also who need to study Christian Doctrine more than the citizen child is far better equipped for the dangerous business of child scout life than the boy and girl who had outside the army been trained in the secular branches alone.

There is no trip on a flooded area, even by means of a big raft without its thorns and great difficulties. however, and this adventure had many difficulties. every other minute or so, Gertrude was occupied in recieving discouraging information, from puzzled and more l or less anxious scouts, about, the wreckage jam barring their way, or a big house coming down on them, and so forth and Gertrude had to see that everything was done to avoid these more or less dangerous objects and the paddlers had to work like mad.

"That house coming tward us is too big and will ram us." one would ex----- claim "It's ten hundred yards long by appearance, and I and other boys made efforts to avoid a big tree. Ain't the trip too dangerous."

"Oh--have you been going to Mass every day when you had the opportunity?"

"Oh yes."

"And is it possible that you haven't heard the priest with us say ant anything that we all must work and have faith in God and His Blessed Mother to aid us through our difficulties, and that th They would?"

"I---I don't think so."

"Then you haven't been paying much ing attention to the instructions." Here use these glasses" and she would hand the boy a field glass case, "and w when you see big objects at a distance watch their progress carefully, and obe observe what it really is, what it is about to do, and if it is too dangerous come back and we'll talk over bit over it intelligently before it comes upon us. Be sure to come back."

And he did, and prevented the disaster that would threaten. But there were some who had more serious difficulties to avoid these dangerous float floating objex objects, and once it happened to be those of Richees boys.. The raft had not been paddled along for only about three hundred yards, when Angeline Richee came over to Gertrude.

Gertrude I'm sorry to trouble you, but Jennie and Dolores have asked me so often to come to you about it that I really must..."

"About what Angeline?"

"About us being able to make our raft go through that immense wreckage jam we are approaching. You see there are only fourteen boys who are able to do the paddling, especially Frank George, and he's the strongest. That means that we too may become jammed. If all of us stronger girls could join in with long sticks we g can fish from the water we may be able to clear the way but that may mean only one good paddle for each of us, and the wreckage coming our way in a combination of everything we can imagine. Then there's a number of houses floating down with it, and trees also, that means hard work, and we'll have to be careful we don't get rammed or tipped. Dolores thinks she can fit us out, and Margaret johns is going to take care of the western edge of the jam, but Jennie and Gracedelinia would like some sugestion to avoid the floating houses, and the trees.."

"I'll take care of the situation." Gertrude said."At least "she added, "I have a.hin't we'll have to.avoid the jam or go back to land untill it passes."

. "Thank you Gertrude.I'm so ashamed of the situation, that we are not as it seems able to take care of the situation, but since .this flood came and since we have totravel.on it, Dolores had been out of sorts most of the time,and there.scarcely any room now to go through the waters.Dolores doesn doesn't see much clear space coming for miles at the least.she thinks or says all the towns of the world must be grounded into timber by this flood.Ho How about Jeans suggestion. he thinks we ought to ram the floe and fight our way through?She says its"only naif a mile wide of timbers ."

"We can try for a more open spot."

Thank you Gertrude."She paused a moment then added"But we won't make it.It'll hit us anyway."

"Indeed."

"Oh Gertrude,My girlscout leaders are the most enthusiastic little scoutsyou ever saw about our adventures, they are talking about it more than any of us.Every minute one or the other of them looks over the wide expanse of this flood, works out what we have learned at our instruction,s and goes ahead and and asks the wisest questions, and when we are in danger you ought to see them pray.Jane herself works at the pole in pushing away obstructions, and she keeps desperately at the work till we bundle her away and make her take a rest."

Gertrude had often noticed Jane, the most reckless child scout of her whole six hundred.Her earnest eyes followed every motion of Gertrudes, and her t enthusiasm was striking.In giving orders or instructions to her followers her voice rang out clear, sweet, redolent of such unusual courage as is seldom found in little boys even.

"By all means Angeline,we must first see Jane about this before taking any action."

Angeline left, but presently returned with jane.

"Good morning Jane."

"Good morning Miss Aronburg."

"Ihear you are in Miss Maxwells Regiment.."

"Yes miss Aronburg."

"How old are you ?"

"About eleven."

"Eleven.That's rather surprising. When were you eleven?"

"On the 9th of June yhis this month."

Jane was standing before Gertrude, her shoulders squared, head head erect ,and her hands clasped behind her back. She bore a remarkable resemblance of her friend Penrod, as she had first seen him only Janes pale face was rounder,fatter, her body stouter,and her hair decidedly more brown.

"Why you are a great good scout at that child, but I hear you are often reckless at your work."

Janes face changed, the smile left it, and grave inquiry took its place. She looked at Gertrude for several moments and then answered;

"Sometimes I am."

"Do you really understand your work and your position."Asked Gertrude.

"I sure do.!"

"Do you know all your instructions.?"

"Yes."

"she does coroborated Angeline.she knows everything as well as I do.Only if she could control herself and not be so rask she'd be better though I must confess I do sure admire her bravery and so does Mildred."

Atthis moment Dolores came up.

"Excuse me Gertrude." said the young girlscout."We are clearing our way through the jam.There is no danger."

Indeed Dolores Jennings bore the reputation not altogether dangerous to the enemy, excepting thatlike a tigress, yet who just kept within the speed limit.In other words, she was a very good girlscout."I understand Gertrude, that we have a tremendous undertaking here, and that we might have to remain on.the raft all night.We can do it I believe.Theres a full moon."

"That's precisley precisely thesituation, Miss Jennings."

"Well I'm not much of a girlscout leader Miss Aronburg, not what I ought to be, but I just now happened to be aiding the boys inclearing away the drift before our ra traftand I occured to me that we might be able to cross a narrow neck of the flood at Aberdeenia, ten miles away and land on a square plateauout of range of fire and smoke."

"Was it your angel that whispered you the suggestion, or the angle ange.s angels of our own crews?" Gertrude asked.

"It must have been your angel,I fear mine didn't think of it in time.But Gertrude you don't mean to say that you are going to follow the suggestion?"

"The fact is"Gertrude answered,"that I thought I wasn't a moment ago, but I'm beginning to think again.When you ku just now announced your willingness to aid me! thought that the angles particularly yours---were taking a hand in thr a the affair to bring us through saftly.Miss Jennings you will be

good enough to see us through the debris.as soon as possible."

"Gladly Gertrude. Who knows but that we may have guardian angels on this trip and that we may be entertaining them unawares."

Ah,who knows!There were as Gertrude felt, angels on the raft, angels who entertained by her and her followers unawares, had not a little to do with the shaping of all.their adventure and its outcome in the future.

"Now jane"Gertrude said presently,"you may do your work at poling, bjt but be careful and do not take a buth."

Jane herself looked like an angel a few minutes before.She danced to the other end of the raft now---do angels dance-and Angeline Richee was dancing with her.

They had been traveling on for some short distance from this moment when one of the boys who was nearest Gertrude reported that a host of glandelinians were on shore.Gertrude saw they appeared to be cavarly, r probably of the "Wheeler type" and that the Glandelinians apparently were following the directio of the raft.

"Evidently they see us and are following us "said Gertrude."Have the boys paddle further out so that we won't be in their range."

This order was obeyed, and the raft shot further out into the waters, the Glandelinians observing this, and with a howl of rage at being so suddenly outwitted, opened fire withtheir rifles. Gertrude f a feared that the enemy mi might have artillery with them, and if so they would disable or sink their raft but fortunately, they didn't.The persuit of this kind continued on for fully five hours, untill it grew dar dark, and with a parting volley of shots the Glandelinians di disappeared into the dark recesses of the woods. After the excitement was over, Gertrude and even all the rest missed one one of their number.It was Jane Carns. the youngest of the girlscouts.

It had been otherwise almost impossible not to miss the little child scout ,who in the front led all the mites of seven and eight, in doing all the scout work, impossible not to miss the little girl whose attention so caught Gertrude that often while being with the whole force, she had discovered herself unconsciously addressing herself to her.somehow that evening after the adventure with the enemy on shore dragged, and Gertrude missing this other jane was worried and anxio s, fearing she might have fallen off the raft and got drowned or was forced to save herself by swimming to shore and either risking capture, or that of being lost.Because of this, the six hun red hundred because of the absense of the one child scout--of course all the others were present--sem seemed to have lost its savor.

Angeline came forward a little later when it grew darker, and When Gertrude was wondering whether.she houle should take the chances of landing o or not.

"Gertrude"she said"You wouldn't believe it, but twenty of us were hit, when the enemy fired on us, and I'm also wounded in the leg a little. Little Jane was struck a little below the neck by a bullet, and she's in one of the wagons and has a high fever.she was talking of nothing all during this time but of YHoly Holy Communion, and Extreme Munction and of you and ar cause Gertrude. Since she believes she is going to die, she wants to see you awfully bad. she made me promise her to ask h you to come and see her to night, even before you land."

"Is she any better by now?"

"Miss Turmor thought she would be, but she is veey weak now and is suffering some pain.Jennie took care of her wound.When Jennie asked her whether she wanted any supper this evening, she said, no, and that she wanted to see you instead."

"Any of the others wounded very bad?"

"No."

"Well little Jane, my dear, that I'll be to see her the first chance I get.I must first see if we are safe first."

Accordingly when the raft was beached, but not landed, every one still betaying on, Gertrude came to the wagon indicated by Angeline.All the girlscouts, save Jane Carns were gathered about the wagon praying, the elder scouts were busy at putting up the tents, but they all jumped up and stood at attention at Gertrudes arival, and then when the command came"at rest" all of them in various language expressed a hearty welcome.

"Poor Jane will be so glad"said Jennie rumper, walking p to Gertrude."she has been asking every five minutes of so whether you was coming."

"How is she?!"

"She has been shot a little above the heart." answered Jennie"and though she says now that she feels not much pain, she is so very weak. We fear she is dangerously wounded.This evening after the other wounded children were taken care of, she was the last one accidentally hit or probably hit by the bullets of the enemy.After she was brought here she begged me to let her get up, but of course I kept her in bed.Then she asked if she couldn't get up if she felt any better, so that she could do her du y duty.I told her to wait and see what our girlscout doctor would say about it.Between that time I went off to get so e bandages.I was gone only a few minutes, but when I came back I found Jane holding one stocking in her hand, and lying on the wagon floor. She She had attempted to get up and dress.She was not unconscious, but she was so weak that she fell over, and could not get up and she was bleeding again."

"And Gertrude,"supplemented Angeline Richee,"When Miss Turner said"Jane,why didn't you stay in your cot"she answered"I don't want to miss doing my duty and I can't."nd when Miss Turner told her she'd have to stay in her bed, she turned her face twurd the canvass covering of the wagon, and said not a single word.But Miss Turner could see she was crying."See said one of the boyscouts, I wish I was as anxious to make my last Communion as she is."

"Have you had a doctor for Janes wound Miss Turner."

"yes, even though I didn't think at first it was necessary.This is the first time that we had such a happening, and if it had not been.for the nature of her wounds I would never have thought of gor getting a doctor.I told her if she had no objections I'd have a special surgeon call to night, and she thanked me."

"I understand Jennie"but don't worry about the expense.The doctor may charge it to us.And now let me see Jane."

Jennie Turner and Gertrude got into the wagon together.Jane was evidently awaiting her.she was lying flat on a bed but on two pillows.

"Oh Gertrude"she said,and caught y her hand"I am so glad to see you."

"Well Jane, my little dear, how do you feel now."?

"All right only I have a pain where I was shot and sometimes cannot get my breath.I was hit here"she said putting her hand on the bandage a little below the neck.B"But it isn't much though I have a chocking.feeling, and I'm afraid it won't stop bleeding.Gertrude, are you going to have a special doctor for me."?

"Why Jane."

"Because I was shot here.?I'm afraid I am mortally wounded.It feels that way."

"Jane you may have a special doctor if you like, we'll all promise to pray for your speedy recovery if God wills it. You know that to day we had a bad affair, and every one of us are going to Recieve Holy Communion to morrow for your Recovery."

"And may I make it with them Gertrude, even if I am mortally wounded."?

"Yes my dear, every day, but I hope you'll improve and keep on improvinig improving, but here comes the Father, he wishes to see you too.I suppose you want to go to Confession."

"Yes Gertrude. I want to go to Confession."

When the priest that escorted the girlscout Regiment on its adventure all this distance came, the two girls and their attendants retired, and the injured child told her Confession in perfect innocence, simplicity and love. At the end the priest gave her a special blessing, and expressed the hope that the special doctor now coming would give the good news that she would be all right.But indeed the hope was not realized. Just when all the tents were erected on shore near the raft, the doctor called at Gertrudes headquarter tent just as she was ready to go,and see Dolores.

"Miss Aronburg, that little girlscout Jane Carns is fear dangerously if not mortally wounded, a very sick girl indeed.She's all right if gangerino does not set in the wound.If it does she's gone."

"You don't say doctor.?"

"I certainly do.From the effects of her wound wound, and she has bled a lot, her heart is weak----very weak.Unless matters take a turn for the better in three or four hours, I don't see how I can pull herthrough.I suppose you are rather surprised to see her me coming in, when I could get you on the run, or on your camp wireless phone."

"You read my thoughts Doctor. "

"Well the fact is j Jane in sisted on my coming to see you personally just after I had finished cleaning and bandaging her wounds.she doesn't care a snap of her pretty little finger, what I think of her wound and its nature, but she cares everything for her cause alone, and what you think.for the sake of serving her country longer she'll fight for life, but she wants to make her Holy Communion to morrow morning the same as she does daily.That would mean that the priest will have to Bring Our Lord to her."

"Very well then Our Lord will Come..."

"But Gertrude that surely will mean a miracle."

"Very well then"Gertrude said" We ll have a miracle."

"Just as you say Gertrude"said the doctor with his dry wise smile."But one thing is certain no one is going to get her out of her cot till I say so."

I'll see that no one disturbs her."

Gertrude then charged Dolores, to call up Crucedelinia, and the Misses Jean and Mildred, and let them know at once,that Jane Carns was dangerously wounded. Dolores did so and realizing that the enemy had done it every one was aroused, and decided to get even the first chance they had.As the night wore on, there came no improvement to the injured child, and ten of the others were considered growing bad too, and one of the others had died already.Jane grew quieter, said little, could not sleeppp, and lay on her cot, so arranged that h r her eyes could fall when she listed, upon her favorite Sacred Heart picture. he for the sake of her duties and so forth showed great anxiety to get wells and hoped to be able to go to Holy Communion on the morro .

At Midnight Gertrude was aroused from her sleep, and the doctor had called h r her up by phone.

"I'm sorry to say Gertrude, you that your sweet, charming, and patient little friend is not long for this world.There's no cure for a wound like hers. The bullet entered the upper part of her heart."

Gertrude at that was only in a few minutes again with her little sick friend. Is flower was fairer than her little face---illness from her wound had made it much sweeter, and added to it another worldliness, the beauty of which it is one in the face of coming death is born of child like faith and innocence. The interior of the covered wagon, as usual, spotless, was bright and gay with cowgirl flowers of all kinds, and their fragrance was good.The two Jennings girls, and others had been present, Gertrude could easily account for the flower and Angeline Richee had remained up with her all night.

"Gertrude"said Angeline Richee, apologizing as Gertrude could see in the name of the whole camp".I night Jane was badly worried and she cannot sleep for the pain.The doctor told her that positively she could not recover."

"And I told the Doctor a few hours ago, when he said that it might be necess ary to administer the Last Sacraments that if it were necessary I would call the priest and have it done.."

"Oh Gertrude"cried Angeline Richee,"Are you afraid she is going to die right now."?

"No my dear.But what greater miracle indeed isthere in the world than for Our Blessed Lord to come to those who are sick and in danger of dying, when they can't come to Him?"

Then she turned to Jane and asked;

"Jane my dear, how would you like Our Lord to come to you at midnight or sooner.?"

Jane sat up in bed.

"I'd lke to recieve Him sooner if possible."

Of course all knew it was not necessary to examine her as she knew all and was a daily Communicant. But she needed questioning as to how she got her wound.Therefore O r Gertrude said;

"Would you like me to question you about your case my dear.You know over over twenty of our comrades have been wounded beside you, and one died.but never theless I believe there are none who have so queerly wounded as you, so you needn't be afraid."

"I'm not afraid of anything"said Jane, making an endeavor to sit up and failing.

"Lie as you are jane or you'll hurt yourself worse. Now when the enemy started the firing upon us, how did yourecieve the wound."?

"I saw the Clandelinian soldier who hit me.He aimed before I could seek some object of protection.."

"And when you recieved the wound what did you do.?"

"Before I fell I tried to fire back."

"And when you recieved the wound, what did the Clandelinian soldier who shot you look like."

"A turmerannian."

"What did the rest look like."?

"The same.They were all Turmerannians,"

"Were they are all firing at the same time." ?

"No they were not." and Jane shook her head with vigor.

"How dod you know they were not firing at the same time?"

"I could tell by the numbers of flashes in the twilight darkness."

"And do you believe it firmly that they were all Turmerannians?"

Jane nodded her head with still greater vigor.

"Is the doctor very, very sure the wound is unusually dangerous."?

"I don't know.I want to do my duty or die."

"Well Jane at eleven thirty, I'll have Our Regiment Priest come here with Our Blessed Lord, and you needn't fast,I'm sure."

"I should fast." she said decidedly.

"You do as the doctor tells you. You want to Recieve Extreme Unction too to night."?

"Yes."

"Then I'll ask him if t he thinks it necessary to anoint you, so that if t it is God's will you may get well."

"Thank you Gertrude.Should I wear my Communion dress?"

"Yes pet." put in Angeline Richee."And Miss Aronburg, if you have no objections Dolores and I will be here."

"Nothing would please me better.I will notify the priest."

The three young girlscout leaders were moved to tears,

The following hour , when the priest who had been notified entered the tent to which Jane had been brought, hallowed by the innocent abd brave girls girlscout, the priest and Gertrude who accompanied him noticed at a glance the loving care of loving hands on every side..There were wild forest flowers in profusion.The table was covered with a snowy white cloth, and everything upon it, from crucifix to silver spoon, was immaculate and pure . Camp life, hand in hand with cleanliness has a beauty all its own. Upon the cot lay Jane in the white splendor of her Communion dress. It appeared as she lay there,as if an angel had took her form, for love, devotion and faith gave her fair face the beauty that is beyond the gift of all power on earth.

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Supported by Angeline Richee on one side, and Dolores on the other, Jane recieved Him,who still calls out---"Suffer little children to come Unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."Slowly she was allowed to sink back upon her pillow,where with closed eyes,she remain d perfectly still.Only for a slight movement of ! the lips, one would have thought her head... They tip toed out of the tent,a great reverence having come upon all who had been with her for several minutes they spoke in whis pers.So low were their tones,that a faint voice within calling "Father"caused all to start.

"Well Jane"the priest said in answer to her call.

"Father,may I go every day as long as I live?"

"My child, if you like yes."

A wave of beauty swept over her face, a beauty however that seemed not of this earth."

"Now Father,I am going to pray for you and all the rest."

"By the way Gertrude observed to Angeline Richee, as they pickedtheir way out of the tent," Four of our girlscouts who were shot are in danger of danger of death."

"Four Gertrude?"

"Yes, that is whatthe priest said, for he annointed them toand gave them Holy Communion.And then you know the others are seriously hurt."

"My Gertrude I understood that they were not all seriously hurt."

"Yes, but at the time we were attacked as a result more of us were hit than at first thought.As a result four others were mortally wounded..Dolores and Jennie Turner too found out the circumstances, and brought the news to me.If I see the same Clandelinians again I'll order my cavarly to attack."

"Miss Richee"observed Dolores,"while I have been probably wasting my time you have been doing good.I have heard now you and Miss Turner have brought so many other scouts saftly through.I wish I had done more.Oh Gertrude,I've good a good guardian angel."

"Indeed?"

"Yes but its a different one.All my followers and Janes are the guardian angels.Every one of you have been praying for me,and I can actually feel it affecting me.Miss D Turner, any time you want a good companion to aid you in your work call on me."

The priest himself had when he administered the Holy Communion had not iced that Jane was somewhat weaker than usual.Before giving her Holy Con-Communion communion he had heard her confession, at the end of which he had asked

"How are you feeling Jane."

"The bullet wound pains me a little more here." she answered putting her hand over the spot where the bandage was."It doesn't hurt so much though."

"Do you want the pain to go away and the wound to heal?"

"I only want to Recieve Our Blessed Lord, and if He wills it to live so that I can do myduty I'll willing to accept."

"I see.And yet jane dear, if Our Lord wants to take you away, are you willing to go."

"Yes Father."

"Then tell Our Blessed Lord, that you are willing to give up your life, for the cause of His and our Country if He wants you to."

There was a short pause, Janes lips were moving feebly, then she said in a voice grown perceptibly ge weaker.

"I have told Him. The child looked up at me as she said these words, and smiled.After her Holy Communion, while the other scouts as many as possible as could knelt about her, the priest assisted her in her thanksgiving..

Miss Richee." the priest said to his faithful friend and companion a little later."Ithink that Jane is very near to Heaven.Probably she must know itself her self, for just nowas I took her hand before going she saidI said;

"Good bye Father I have told Him, and when I get to Heaven I will pray for our Cause.Now if ant change takes place whether it is good or bad, send for me at once."

"All Right Father,oh How I wish I was in Janes place."

"You i will be some day."

Slowly the priest had went his way back to his own partof the camp. slowly up hill t be free from the flood.True he had saw the gleam of distant camp fir fires and he had paused, but he was not afraid..It had seemed to him that in this war devastated country, that in some sense He was walking with God, that angels, the angels of the Blessed Eucharist, the angels of little children, and the angels of those who fight for their country and its Holy Cause, were accom accompanying him, and therefore why should he fear , even though he did not like the looks of the distant camp fires. even what if the fires should be of the camps of the enemy who recently had attacked the girls on the raft and who had caused the tragedy that was or had been already enacted..Slowly Slowly, but reluct n reluctantly, he resumed his way.Suddenly out of the noise of the distant flood his ears picked out the sound of a horse coming his way rapidly behind him, finally he turned, and he was not at all surprised to de discover Angeline Richee..She had as he surmised rode all the way from her own part of the camp, rode in that swift unusual manner manner he had observed in her so many times before.

"Father"she said"as she stopped her horse,,"I'm afraid she has taken the turn.She is in what Dolores thinks is her main agony.She called for you four times.Please come quick."

The priest wondered if he had heard the call . Indeed why had his steps become slower and slower.And what had he even paused and waited.Why had he listened for the sound of the coming of those horse hoofs, and caught them out the noise of a great flood...Indeed she and the priest hastened back.When they reached the tent Jane was gasping, and breathing laboriously laboriously.The priest t took her hand.

"Jane"He called three times, with pauses between.Yet those gentle lips were never to never to speak again.

"Let us say the prayers for a departing soul." the priest said to those who were assembled, and forwith he began the Litanyfor the dying. dying.With every invocation the breathing became quieter, less labored. At the end of the Litany, the priest paused, and bent over the senseless chiod child, and he went on reading the up the prayer that follows the Litany;

Let us pray.

"Depart o Christian soul, out of this Sinful war torn world, in the nale of God, the Father Almighty, who created thee, in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who suffered and died for Thee, in the Name of the Holy Ghost, who santified thee, in the name of the Anfil Angels, Archangels, Thrones, Dominations, Cherubim, and seraphim----" the priest paused and bent down, the gentle breathing had not ceased,"In the name of Patriarchs, and Prophets, of the Holy Apostles, and Evangelists, of the Holy ,artyrs, and Confessors of the Holy Monks and hermits, of the Holy Virgins, and of all the Saints of god, let peace come to thee this day------- "O tiny sigh, as of one sinking to grateful rest brought to the priest to pu a pause.The girlscout had breathed her last.Then he finished-"and let thy abode by in Holy Sion, through Christ Our Lord Amen."

And there in that lo wly tent, with everyone weeping silently, the priest was filled with the sense of invisible presences.It seemed to him not a place of death but of glory.The heaven that hung about thi this girlscout had in herchildhood had reached her again, and of it for a moment all within the tent were partakers..And so the girlscout who had gave her life for the christian cause, having at the bidding of duty, had gave her life that the cause might be won,and had departed out of this sinful world into peace, and into her abode in Holy Sion..She had kept herBaptism as to be without blame, , she had observed the commandments of god, and now she had met Him toggether with all the Saints in the Heavenly Court, and now has eternal life and will live forever.There is any one may know and feel, a chosen band in heaven so like the Holy Innocents, first flowers of Christs coming, yet so diff different. Jane was one of the first in the holy cause of Abbiemnia, their number will soon grow into the many thousands. and this beautiful band, which while which follows not only the countrys cause, but also the Lamb wherever he goes is made up of the dear little brave child scouts, who give their lives that their holy Cause may be won..

CHAPTER TWO

ANGELINE RICHEE MAKES UP SOME KIND OF PLAN.
SHE ALSO DAZZLES GERTRUDE GERTRUDES AIDE DECAMP.
THE TWO GIRLSCOUT FAIRIES NURSE A SECRET OF THEIR PLAN.....".".".

A little later after this sorrowful event, the trip down the flood was the next day of the last week of Chuly going on hour after after hour wh with what appeared to be the most grutifying results. The boys and girlscouts especially the smaller ones, were quick and responsive to the work asigned them, and indeed it was a touching sight to see the little scouts of six and seven, both boys and girls,, oefore setting out on the raft, attending the early morning Mass with the whole dump of their own intention, and with without the guardianship of their elder scouts, or the cavarly escort. The girlscout leaders too, reported the marked chunge in the flood itself, for the better, which they observed in the slight if any decease of the flood . Also for lessons and conduct among the smaller scouts nothing could be beat.. mong those who were especially mentioned was Jane Melfort. The mantle of little jane Carns seemed to have fallen upon her, in course of time she had come to rival many of the others, not only in decduct and attention and her activities,, but also in quickness and grasp, and was losing most of her reckless ways.

"uring the onward progress down the teit on the raft, there came to Gertrude little Jean and her ei elder sister Minnie. Jeantoo had been wounded and her hand bandaged was held by a sling. Gertrudes heart sunk on seeing this. all that night she had not slep because of the sad event that had occured but it never cume in her mind that jean too had been hit by the shots from the Glandelinian cavarly on shore. Here she thought is another event showing what cowards the Glandelinians are.

"Good morning Miss Aronburg,"said Minnie herself"You didn't know little Jean was hit by the enemy."

"How do you do this morning Miss Aronburg." said the little girl, still in her dainty uniform of purple, and as strikingly pretty as before.

"The pleasure is mine, except i don't enu enjoy the fact that you too were wounded"said gertrude.

"Miss Aronburg"continued Minnie"I understand, that you are preparing to head for cedernine Creek by way of this flood."

"So you've found it out at last, have you."Gertrude said."The scouts who were just hearing of her intentions which she had told about two or three three weeks ago was getting on her nerves.

"I just heard of it about two days ago, Mi s Aronburg." said Minnie.

"Oh I beg your pardon--- but all the same it's too late for me or any one to suggest for me toulter my plans, that's been put through since last week."

"Perhaps it is"said Minnie, "ut you'll not do it just the same. The nature of this flood will force you to.you cannot approach any place but the town of Evangeline St Claire.If you don't alter your plan we'll all play harps with the angels.I just recieved word through telegraph..There's no Cedernine Creek.It's all a rging sea."

"Oh "said gertrude, beginning to realize that she was rather rash herself, and touched also bythe evident dismay, which had come upon jeans face"Perhaps I have been husty, and has your little sister hay any good reliable informatio about that.?"

"Oh yes Miss Aronburg"put in Jean"I have plenty."

"Come into my tent." said gertrude.

On questioning Jean, and Minnie Gertrude found that she was reallly well informed, more than her bigger sister.

"Why Miss Saunders"said gertrude"This child scout is fit for a good telegrapher herself."

"I know it, I knew it."cried Jean with evident joy.Here comes Miss Richee"she wishes to talk to you too. And Dolores said all along that you would have to alter the plan."

"Hold on Gertrude said,"Where did yourecieve the telegram Miss Saunders."?

"It came to us by a messenger in a bulloon." Minnie answered with a touching smile.

"Oh"And where do you think the flood is spreading now."

"It has al engulfed Dennison own."

"Very good informatio -that's in the Cedernine Creek region.Well if we have to alter our course it will afford me great pleasure to informing all of you that we'll never find our way back to Emperor Vivians army.so we all have to for making the best course take our way to an Evangeline St Claire."

"Thank you so much Miss Aronburg"it's suffer.It also takes a weight off my mind.We really will have to change the plan from a plan of necessity. We ran into plenty of danger here, and we have had several narrow escapes already so to speak.

"Narrow escapes"gertrude echoed."May I ask what happened now."?

"We were nearly struck by a floating house a few minutes ago"put in Jean "we are encountering all kinds of floating debris, dead animals, and tees trees haven't we in.?"

"And how dod you like the experience."Gertrude asked, looking at Jean with renewed interest,.

"Oh, I've been going through flood experiences so long I'm tired of it." she said, with a gesture perefectly expressive of weariness.

"How long have been meeting with so much debris?"

"Five hours."

"And how big are the floating houses Jean ?"

"I couldn't tell.but from their length they must be big."

"Good heavens Gertrude exclaimed."

It was quickly settled,tthat both jane and her elder sister should call on Gertrude on her chance of getting the opportunity during the ensuing houtr hour of recieving a little private instruction of what should be done. owever Gertrude cautioned the two girlscouts not to p speak t to any one else, not even the other girlscouts about her news---a caution indeed very necessary ---and finally put her into the care of Mildred Maxwell, who was to be her guardian on all occassions as should arise.

To Angeline Richee alone ,ofall the girlscouts was confided the secret that there was no chance of reaching the territory of Cedernine Creek. The usually stolid George ,Gertrudes Aide-decamp, who paid no attention as a rule to any visitors, was all alive with interest on the occassion on the introduction from the two girlscouts of the fact that Cedernine r Creek was impassabe, and that the christian armies they were seeking, were not there.

Before the two girls retired to theother end ofthe gu huge raft, George had during the short conversation with them, kept his eye steadily on both, and listened to everythingthey said with the greatest intention or attention. There was a certain awe upon his features, indicated by an open mouth and a rigid stare. As Gertrude showed her two visitors out of her tent(which stood on the middle of the raft) George jumped from his chair-a thing Gertrude had always observed him to.do unbidden-and hurrying to the tent enr entrance held the door open.Indeed he also held his mouth open, and his eyes followed with a rare constancy, every move of Jean Saunders. Jean caught his stare as she neared the door..

"Are you Gertrudes Quartermaster Sergeant?" she asked, smiling into the boys face.

George with a salute and a bow replied;

"I am Her Aide-de-camp Mi s Miss Jean."

"My name is Jean Saunders." said the little girlscout, moving a step nearer nearer to them manifest delight of the boy.

"I know it" he answered."I have heard lots about you."

As the two went out, George instead of closing the door on them, followed them out into the open and nearly as far as they went to the upper end of the raft, and again allowing his jaw to drop, and finally talked with them both for quite a while.

"George" Gertrude said, when he came back"Perhaps you'd like to have their company for good,would you not?"

"Yes Miss Aronburg." said George re-entering the office with one last long, lingering look,"I would."

"Possibly that little girl is your long lost sister?"

"No Miss Aronburg,"answered George in whose face still remained evidence of unusual excitement."Miss Aronburg" he continued,"Youcan't lose my sisters and they are good scouts too.Miss Aronburg, that little girlscout is a great spy.I know her though she don't know me.I wish she would join the bands under the Vivian Girls.she's as great as they are she is."

"Oh she is a Spy, is she.?Who told you?"

"I heard her and her friends say so once, and besides she has done lots of spying work.The enemy would give anything to catch her."

"You appear George, to be singularly interested.What's the matter.?"

"Miss Aronburg I never saw a girl sptbefore."

"Have you never been on a spying expedition with any one before.How about the Vivian Girl Princesses Geroege?"

"Oh yes, Miss A o Aronburg, I saw them often.I saw Violet, and her sister Evangeline, and Jennie come back once with an important message in their possession."

"I thought you said you had never seen a christian girl spy?"

"Oh I'm not meaning the Vivian dirs Girls.But I didn't even know they were spies, and that they went around like other girlscouts being Princesses. as they were.."

"Indeed.Well George, I suppose you intend to tell the rest of our force what you overhead them say."

"Yes Miss Aronburg, but not if you don't want me to.If you want me to keep it a secret, and that she doesn't want no publicity about her news of our course being foiled I'll not say a aord word."

"Well don't "said Gertrude."They'll become discouraged."

"I won't say a word."

Jean was punctual in everything she did while the raft was moving on it its way. Besides directing her own followers as best as she could with h her wounded hand, she and her sister were seen here and there at every moment and through her it seemed alone as well as her friend Mildred, nothing was happening to the raft.One thing struck Gertrude from the first.Jean Was never alone.whether near the edge of the raft, directing some of the paddlers boys, on ot on some other portion, or near the wagons, Angeline Richee always vigilant, was beside her with Mildred.Angeline Richee and Mildred practiced what all girlscout leaders should do, they never left the child unattended. As a result, the little girl too was a good as she was innocent, as frank and as w9m winsome as any girlscout of Abbisania, and under the care of good superior leaders.Angeline Richee the main leader of all was however very unusually the game as she ever was.Time, perils, and adventure and the scenes of the great war did not appear to hang heavy on her hands.

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She flitted about, like she always did, making so e believe she might neve change changed into a butterfly if she had the chance to do so, going from one part of the raft to the other, alighting upon a wagon seat, to continue the directing of the others, now on the north end of the raft, where she directed the boys at the paddles very cleverly thus avoiding crashes with wreckage jams, now on the west end heling the boys there to push off a house that floated against the the raft, and then on the east, where she examined the smoky shore, and now in the middle. All the boyscouts she kept in a state of pepetual movement and excitement,especially george Gertrudes Boy Aide-de-camp . Not content with following her flight in a pepetual stare, he smiled on her now and then, as Gertrude noticed with great surprise.As for both Amb Angeline Richee, and Mildred Maxwell they made thrms themselves at home with George, chattering at him, making him explain his own works and what he does for Gertrude, and once when s mildred was paddling, he almost unceremoniously took the paddle from her and with grim determination took to the work himself, while Mildred stood by .So friendly were the two girls to George that even Gertrude sometimes raised her voice against the over great vivacity of Mildred especially, but it did now good.

During the recieving of Holy Communion, or all duties the girlscout girlscout leaders were quite different, all their vivacity were gone.They were as busy and as dignified as any of the other girlscout leaders under them, and demure, prim and sometimes stern---and that is saying a good deal---as could be, and it is doubtful whether a single boy or girlscout, did the wrong kind of work or directed the raft wrong without their noticing it.Once a boy and sore of his helpers carelessly by mistake or misinformation did not direct the movement of the raft properly and crashed it into a floating house with such gait, that the house was torn asunder and in consequence Angeline Richee" preached" a pere perfect "SERMOn t Sermon to those boys which Any one es else would not have desired to hear, and in consequence they seemed to have a hundred eyes after that, they were so watchful.

Once o e one of the boys was watching Dolores more than what he should be doing and polores cried out loud enough to be heard by all the sixhundred on the raft despite the noise of the flood,

"Don't watch me, watch what youare doing.You're heading into a big tree you hawk."

And the crash came almost damaging that end of the raft, and my Din't both Mildred and Angeline Richee bawl him out.The case brought a cure for carelessness and after that no unusual thing would happen.Angeline Richee quite proud of being the head girlscout of the expedition, was though extremely attentive to all her followers nevertheless.Not content with only directing the boys at paddling, she explained to them the different things they should do to avoid such crashes, to move the raft through the different grades and divisio divisions of floating wreckage, not impassabe. and impassable and so impressed Gertrude and all the others, that Gertrude was content to stay in the backbr background when so long as all the followers were in the hands of the dutiful and enthusiastic Angeline Richee.If it was not for her, they might have all been in "Swimming" long before.

Although there was quite a difference in the respective ages, these two main girlscout leaders had vowed eternal friendship.They always gave directions in chattering like Tennysons brook, and having exchanged with each other all the secrets they happened to possess proceeded each of them, to make up new nes ones, and thus kept the raft float afloat without any mishap so far.

Before the third hour of their trip on the flood this day was passed, they were both wrapped in mystery. very now and then the two girls during a brisk and animated convers conversation would exchange dark looks , and mysterious signs ,and failing, as was generally the case, to make themselves understood, would retire apart out of earshot of any one else, where they each would take turn in en wisphering into each others ears.Not content with this form of converse, they in at times, within striking distance of each other, wrote notes, in which case George the mystified,was called pon first by Mildred, to carry these communications---with strict injunctions of care and secrecy----from one to the other.

Nor did this effusiveness of the affection of the two little girlscout leaders interfered in the least with their devotions and with their work.After the raft was partly caught in a jam of wreckage, the fi two having spent five or six minutes in directing the work of trying to get it out, sallied forth with great dignity to the most dangerous part of the raft and getting on the jam itself made a member of boys follow, and finally got it loose. generally during the work they would be standing on the very jam, waiting for the boys to come.gertrude, happening, to leave her tent on the raft, to go to one end of it,a little before they got the raft loose, and passing through the group of wagons,was surprised to observe, that each girl scout leader, working with long poles with hooks on the, and unconscious of each other, was really in re tremendous earnest.

When the raft was at last torn loose from the jam, the two girls held a special session of every boy belonging to the crew of Paddlers, telling the boys unless they want to go in "swimming " they must be careful, and not let this happen, and yet one boy did, a little later, cause the raft to be jammed between two big floating wooden houses, and it tw took two hours desperate work to finally get the houses shoved off, presides the boy getting a good scolding. by Gertrude herself, who said;

"After this watch what you are doing David.If you dare let such a thing happen again I'm going to demand your resignation from the scout service.We want real good workers here, not dumbells."

"But I didn't see---"

"You didn't see, because you were watching every one else and not your work, and Dolores, Angeline and Mildred scolded you about it before.You have no excuse whatever, and because of your carelessness, I'm as wet as a rag doll. No answering back now or I'll duck you into the water.Watch yourself, and don't jam us up again.If you ain't able to do it right, then quit.I'm telling you once, and no more."

"Bev Because of his carelessness they had lost one horse, two wagons, and six tents besides having to rescue six girls and one boy. Gertrude was sore, but she had to stand for it.During that time Mildred and Angeline Richee following some open chatter about the carelessness of the boyscout, seated themselves in one of the wagons, and me of them wrote a lengthy note.No one ever saw the note, nor could wild horses drag them from the two friends.Not even an inkling of their contents was ever told.The exchange of notes accomplished, the little girlscout lead re, after bestowing a word, on Gertrude, issued forth to the other part of the raft, and remained for half an hour with David, and it was evident they too were telling him plenty.Violent as their love for each other appeared to be, it must be said in justice to the girlscout heroines, that their love really did in "higher love endure".A little more and the girls,so it seemed would become angels---at least in innocence, and in a joy which found itself deeply rooted in the supernatural.

To Gertrude their work, and heart whole devotion to Our Lord and Country was unusually and inexpressibly touching, to George it was a source of unfailing amazement.Together now Mildred and Angeline, watched the work the boys were performing more attentively, especially they kept the eagle eye on David,. Mildred was for taking the paddle away from him and letting some one else do the work, for fear hewould dump the whole lot into the water yet, Angeline favored the use of the discipline, which in her ordinary conversation, she was pleased to call" the Awkward Squad".The difficulty of getting the raft through the flood waters swaming with wreckage, together with the carelessness of this and some other boys, together with some discouraging outcome of the trip so far, had aroused them so that these boys had brought to compromise to be careful especially David, as he feared Gertrude more than any, as Gertrude being the "Chie "Chief " of them all could carry the day. The wo two discussed their plans for carrying the raft on through.the flood to Evangeline St Claire City in Gertrudes presence with great freedom, encouraged to this, Gertrude.took it--by the fact that worried over the outcome of the journey as she was---made as though she paid no attention to tye their words.Seated at her desk outside the tent, making pretense of writing, she listened to the discussions. ward afternoon as the wreckage floats became thicker and the flood waters a little more swifter vigils were taken up, and old orders set aside, and every boy was given more instructions, and David a special warning.This time the two girls were quite serious on this point, and Angeline Richee was careful to point out to David, the difference between floating houses, and wreckage jams.Angeline Richee warned him that if he jammed up the raft again, he'll alone go and loosen it. both girls resolved that withthe approval of other girlscouts leaders they would head due northeast in general in order to try and avoid the wreckage.The phatos of it al all was that Angeline Richee without know i knowing it, was really heading for general vivians army who which was then starting to concentrate positions on the heights beyond that town.

Once one of the girlscouts was starting to go out a little ways on a wreckage jam but her purpose was sternly undone by Mildred Maxwell who said-

"Don't do it again."

At this moment pavid in an unguarded moment, through some more of his carelessness, gave Jennie turner who was walking past at the moment a good shower by the way he swung his paddle, and you my reader should have seen the indignant looks, with which she stabbed the thoughtless offender. Mildred t'en said;

"Now you better look out, If you want trouble just start with her.I know her and you don't.She'll hustle you off of your uniform in a hurry believe me if you get her aroused.You sure soused her, and she'll report you to Gertrude."

However this time she did not do so as she lost her anger too speedily. But she kept an eye on him nevertheless.

About an hour later, when everything now seemed to run smoothly, Gertrude w was informed by George that Angeline and Mildred were outside her tent, and each wanted to see her privately.

"And ,Miss Aronburg" added George,"Angeline Richee says it.s very important.

"Send in the nearest George."

Mildred Maxwell entered.

"Well my little friend" gertrudesaid" sit down."

Mildred, sat on the cot, and turned to her a face as solu solemn as george's.

"Gertrude"she said "I've been watchinb everything, and the boys how they work, that is Angeline has been showing everything to me."

"So I noticed Mildred, and I trust it has done you much good..."

"I hope so Gertrude.We have both been thinking a good deal, and I've been

trying so hard to bring everything through to the goood.

"Yes I see that."

"But it is how are we going to get to Evangeline St Claire that is worrying me"continued the girlscout, turning in her toes in a most extraordinary manner.

"How we are going to get to Evangeline St Claire?" Gertrude gasped.

"Yes, I've been thinking we'll have to soon b forced to be leaving the raft tire tied ashore for a number of days.This life we are leading is about as bad as leading a life of what you call it,---of penance in a cave or desert."

"The way some of our great and famous women saints did?" Gertrude inquired with a straight face.

"Yes Gertrude. Glandelinia has been very wicked. Sometimes I myself won't give in to the feeling that she might be the winner yet--yet I do not stop praying. The news of so many of these disasters just shake me, there been many this month further west, especially in Mullencatt and other States, and our Governments are hurrying through t with the work of mobolizing our armies more and more, and then Gertrude, the way I used to feel, when I heard and saw of Abbiesnn.That was shocking, beyond comprehension.And Gertrude, I8m so discourage discouraged.I was thinking that if we don't see better success in this war soon I've been thinking of packing p and going home.I'm so discouraged and dishearten ed.I just love to see Glandelinia get the worst of it."

"But it is the wars past that is most worrying me." continued Mildred.

"The wars past." Gertrude gasped.

"Yes. Glandelinia has cro wded our armies from the southwest, and is pushing them northward.I know we'll not find a general who can make Myletze retreat,"

"No.?"

"I'm afraid so.I just love to see him also licked."

"So do I "said Gertrude in parenthesis.

"But who can do it."?

"Our Blessed Lord will find the generals."

"I see how dangerous Glandelinia is now." continued Mildred, crossing her knees and looking earnestly at the ceiling of the tent."I never believed could ever think Glandelinia was so menancing, so strong and dangerous.Of course I didn't intend to mean anything I said, but I told Jane several times that Glandelinia will win, and she disputes me."

"I'm afraid so myself." said Gertrude.I"It seems that way anyway.We are in grave danger and our Nations states especially Calverinia and Angelinia is over the ropes.But we can keep on praying.See the monsterous armies that are mobolizing up north."

"Yes but it'll be months before they can do anything as the floods, and fires bar all progress southward. I am sore afraid, and oftentimes feel like packing p and going home.This big flood is doing what I dr-dread.Wiping ot out so much property, and added by the fires doing more damage than I can even figure.I might bankrupt our nation, and then Glandelinia will have us."

"So you are afraid that Glandelinia is on the winning side, and that our country is like a sinner leading the life of a penitent.?"

"Yes Gertrude."

"Andyou fear you may be discouraged and go home?"

"Yes Gertrude."

"What are you going to do for passange.No one can come to us from the north, and we can't go north or east. What are you going to do about that?"

"Oh I didn't think of that."

"What you should do, my friend, is to stick to it through thick and thin, and then if Glandelinia wins, and if I am still around, you may come to me for further advice. advice."

"But Gertrude----about those Glandelinian victories of the past.I didn't really think that Glandelinia was wicked as her cause is, ever could win."

"And be sure Mildred, that you dedn't.Think less about the past of the conflict, and more about Our Blessed Lord you are to recieve to Morrow, who was Himself a child as you are, and think what He can do.As regards penances, Glandelinia will be the one who'll need penance by and by.As to leaving, never do it,without asking the Vivian Girls, or your best advisers and teachers."

" Thakn Thank you Gertrude." and the girlscout leader breaking into smiles whi which expressed the passing away of a host of scruples, uncurled herself, hopped to the floor, and skipped from the tent onto the raft outside.Then entered Angeline Richee.She looked as if she had fought with the lions and tigers of an African Jungle.

"Gertrude, I've been looking over the past months of this tremendous conflict in the very bitterness of my soul."

"Good gracious"Gertrude exclaimed,"and you I suppose have been making some choice extracts from some of your historical readings, haven't you Angeline.?"

"I did see something like that in a book,a geographic one"admitted Angeline Richee,"and it fits Glandelinia's case perfectly.She is on the winning side.I know it.It is even proved."

"Good gracious Gertrude exclaimed once more.

"Gertrude Calverinia and the Bengall and other states are in a terrible situation all this time." went on the leader of the girlscouts. "

"Aterrible situation.?" Gertrude echoed.

"Yes, and she is crucified.No country in the world, either from natural disasters, storms floods or fires or volcanic eruptions or earthquakes, or from scourges of war and Revolutions, wasnI wasn't near so bad as calverinia is, ,and Mildred once said to Jane Melfort as I overheard her,"go bad a disaster, so great our defeat. And Glandelida is a hyprocrite and a lair. he had notified the other nations that she would fight Abbiesnnia fair, and she does not do it."

"I know the whole situation pretty well, Angeline,and I do see where Glandelinia can win even though she is a hyprocrite and a lair."

"Ajah that's just it Gertrude.Glandelinia has fooled the world. hen I foundvout When I found out that Glandelinia was making all these disasters, and winning so many battles, Glandelinia by severing all communications with even the outside world, tried to keep its secret from all the other nations."

"She didn't though. Our correspondents and newspaper men from other nations managed to communicate the news to them somehow or other."

"Yes and when I found out Glandelinia's treachery I hated her as I would a snake."

"I don't blame you my dear."

"Neither does Mildred, Grace or any one else, she told me that Glandelinia did all h in her pwer not to let the worldknow what she does, and is doing."

"I6I'd pity the newspaper men if they c got caught"though Gertrude to her self, and then she said aloud" The other nations are not sleeping.They have sent many correspondents, and newspaper reneend go forth to learn all they can. Glandel Glandelinia thinks they are hyprocrites for going about telling nations of her own sins."

"But that's true Gertrude. Glandelinia has always been dodging, so that the world would not knowwhat was the matter over here in Calverinia and her other states.Look how kind Protestentina and other good nations are to us, lending us aid in provisios, warships and supplies of all kinds, and forever so long we too had to keep back the truth of our situation as we had no means to communicate it,we were forced to keep backthe truth, and then Gertrude, I,m just worried sick about all that Glandelinia may be able to do, and will do in the future.Gertrude I can't fiolp it but I'm beginning to think Calverinia has suffered a mortal wound.Is it so Gertrude.?"

Then Gertrude thought to herself--the nearest thing to a mortal wound on those memorable occasions of these disasters, was not the floods and the explosso explosions and other horrors which Glandelinia is suspected of having caused but the ravaging forest fires, and her occua occupancy of Calverinia, and and the cruel and destructive massacros of so many children her armies have and am still x committing.

"No my dear"Gertrude answered"To begin with you didn't think right at the time when Glandelinia was starting such a big disaster.Calverinia is large, as big as the flood is, only one third of her state is inundated.Bengall State and Angelinia are the worst sufferers from the flood."

"But the fires."

"Yes, they are the worst.They are burning more valuable trees and property, and causing a bigger loss than all the floods combined and-----"

"Gertrude "broke in Ante Angeline riches,"I really do not know what to say or do.Its an awfully hard thing for me to have to say that we are going to be beaten ---it humbles, and then even the last time I saw her two months ago mamam mamma told me over and over, that if the war is won it'll take a long and most bloody struggle to accomplish our victory as Glandelinia is stronger. And she said the world did not know anything about whats going onhere, or otherwise the nations would be coming over here on our side and there'd be the whole world against Glandelinia."

"It would take the wisdom of an older head than yours or mine"said Gertrudem "for to think of how to get our States out of such a situation.Don't bother about that point any more O Angeline."

"I'll not Gertrude, but that's not all.All my live life I've read of the child slavery, and Glandelinia has been pretending to other nations that children stolen from weaker countries were only used for adoption for families without children, and she was not.She decieved the world even then.Gertrude Glandelinia is full of falsehoods."

"Good gracious." Gertrude said for the third time...

"Yes I Gertrude."And I know Myletze and his fighting ways.If he cannot win he uses other means."

"Yes?"

"Yes Gertrude, He likes to play tricks."

"So do I."

"And he loves to have bigger armies than any of the others."

"And so does Violet,and her sisters."

"And he loves to be admired.He thinks he's a God."

"Maybe he is an idol."

"Suppose so.And he loves to tease our armies by outwitting us."

"He does."

"Yes its terrible."

"Angeline te.tell me, do you do anything foolish or do you think rank ranks rashness by going into his lines to learn what kind of a man he is."?

"I think not Gertrude, not just now--that is to be safe---I---Gertrude I'll say yes I did.I did at Bolight's junction after Myletze fought his first bloodiest battle of the war there.And Violet bawled m out for it too."

"Instead of trying such stunts, my dear, try always to do first what you Think will be a wiser move for Our Lords sake, and then you needn't be sorry. You know the saying ,"those who seek danger shall find it."Is there anything else, Angeline?"

"Yes Gertrude, how can we stop Glandelinia's murderous work.I ave have prayed and prayed, and so have the whole country full of people, and we never know what's going to happen to even any of us yet."

"It's a desperate and anxious situation ,Angeline, the horrors of this dreadful war, Glandelinia ,I'm afraid can't be stopped entirelyunless by miracle.There was a time when she could, if our Government had been on its guard, but that time seems to be past.Emperor Vivian feels the case very keenly keenly.He has spoken to be several times to tell me how hard he is fighting."

Angeline was almost weeping."Our
"Our poor country." she sobbed,"I'd give my life indeud to morrow if necessary to save our cause, and I'm always offering up My Holy Communion for our Holy Cause, and that ought to count sometime." He says Ask anything in My Name and I'll grant it nto you."
"He certainly would some time..." said Gertrude..
"And to day, this afternoon," continued Angeline Riches" growing suddenly radient radiant,"I'm going to make my general attempt to bring the raft further on after we stop for dinner, and when I think of a general attempt, Gertrude do you know what I think of?"
"What Angeline?"
"That we and the whole nation are saints, and that we all have been washed by the Blood of the Lamb even in this war, by this baptism of fire water and horrors, and we have in our souls been made whiter than snow.This afternoon I hope to see some one else too have a soul think of it,whither than snow. And that will be mine."

And the Fairy of the Christian armies was gone back to her dutues........
"Good gracious "Gertrude cried, for the fourth time, and would fain have lasped into mediation over what she had heard, had not George interrupted her with the information that the boy David had soused Jennie Turmer carelesslsly with his way of splashing the paddle, and that Jane Mellfort had sent him direct to her.
The boy was ushered in to the tent and stood before Gertrude. This boyscout the reader may possibly remember, though not at all bad, was nevertheless a boy who in his earliest days never recieved the proper training of how to be careful.Though Jennie Turmer had not reported it, Angeline Jennings had brought the matter to Jane who transfered the report to Ger George who told Gertrude, and she was there desire desirous of speaking to him.
Gertrude couldn't understand how in such a hopeless situation of the country she should have one careless indifferent boyscout in the whole command. All the others in the time not given to sleeping, and the neglect of cleaning their weapons and horses and wagons, had loved to kept keep the raft going on with out mishap, and to that end even Mildred had tried to train David carefully into the safe carriage of how to use his paddle, how to direct the raft, and so forth,and not to jam up everything or splash others as he did.All during the trip the boy had been on the "list of careless ones" It was he who once caused the raft to be almost upset that night the raft crashed into the big floating tree, and as he was on that end of the raft, he couldn't say truthfully "He didn't see that tree.So But otherwise he was not irregular in coming to his duties, he went to Mass and Holy Communion freely, showed great interest in making himself ready for everything, but he was at fault at this one thing, and now wen when he was brought beforevher for splashing Jennie, she had been minded in putting him off the paddle force, and have him content himself with doing some other kind of work.Yet the question still hung unsettled.
"Gertrude"Jane said"Jennie can't possibly get a new uniform for some time to come untill she makes a trip to the shore properly and has to clean it. She's been splashed to vfrom-head to foot with mud and water, and something like sea weed and polywogs.She didn't scold him but she's mad."
"So it appears"said Gertrude."The fact is Miss MillfortI'm so darn disgusted with David that I've about made up my mind to put him out of the class as a boyscout.I have taken in the trouble to look into his ways and see that it is not good.Dolores Mildred, Jean, and others have communicated their impressions to him on no uncertain terms, but he doesn't seem to follow their instructions.A night or so ago we crashed into the roots of a big three through his carelessness, and come near all being ducked.I myself had laid down the the law, but it seems of no use.I believe he's not interested in his work."
"What are you going to do."?
"I might have to put him out of the boy scout service as sooh as we reach the christian lines.I'm for b ringing his case before Emperor Vivian."
"Poor boy, you surely wouldn't do that Gertrude.Maybe he is not trained well, and he has had no chance at all.Maybe someone can show him what to do that's right."
."I'm not thinking of David, so much Jane as of the others of his class. He has ducked one boy into the water, tipped us twice, soaked both me and Jennie by splashing us with his paddle, jammed the raft between a wreckage flow and then between two houses which threatened to crush the raft, and then of precipiating Jean and Jinnie into the water too from his carele carelessness. Jean slapped him.He is"giving such bad work that I'm afraid he'll dump us all into the flood yet, and make us lose everything if not our lives, since we are not far from shore and we are goood swimmers. ."
"But Gertrude, he won't be paddling for these next days.I've arranged for that.Gertrude I asked his leader Mary Stunck to let him be with me untill I can train him properly.He'll have plenty of time to learn to do things right, and I promise you I'll do everything for him in the line of training, as though he were of my own command. And Mildred will help me."
"Jane,Shake hands.You've solved a question that has given me no end of annoyance."
And so during the future time to come Jane was to take David in hand, and mak make him into a winderfully changed boy.
This fill dau of the trip on the raft inthe midst of flood waters was always

a memorable, and nusual day for all the girlscouts in this adventure. Near the noon time those on the raft saw some sights that no one cared much to see. Bodies of human beings floating in the water, children even, in the shape of simple hearted boys, and modest little girls, and the waters was tenanted by floating boxes, trunks, broken sides of wooden houses going by like rafts, bodies of horses, and all the various followers of wreckage that we do always see in a great flood, and therefore who could forget the ugliness and the horrors of these flood scenes, though little souls who perished in the flood had no doubt grown bright in the "other world" to welcome the S iritual flowers of Christ in heaven to testify also there of how and why they died.
Down the flood in groups of twos and threes, and sometimes singly came floating houses, but with no one on their roof tops except sometimes some cat dog or chickens, but not the sight expected of persons in the upper windows or on the roofs. Sometimes in the water floated close to the raft, little boys and girls, women or men covered with slime and mud which the water did not wash from them.Down the flood comes another host of floating houses, and tward the raft comes a house with a sign painted above the roof-
"Welcome to our Fair city of Abbieanu." It had floated all that distance and still was floating.As there was danger of a crash, the boys at the paddle had to change the course of the raft, and just got away by a narrow margin.From the north, and sometimes the northeast, and northwest the houses come, and it was a sight of unusual sombreness to those who witnessed it, anda sorrowful thing to Him who loves children. Men and women, some who showed that they had been well to do, are floating on the flood, fathers, mothers, relations no doubt and friends, and animals of all kinds, hogs, cows, calves, sheep, and any kind of animal that is shy of water because they cannot swim, and one can see that tender memories of other days is a thing of the past, because the flood has and is sweeping everything away.After a time all this disappears within the distance, and again all is a vast stretch of muddy yellow water, and all is silence except the swish, swash of the waters.
Devoted girlscouts these are indeed----how devoted to their Countrys cause ,no one dare to attempt to express---are at hand to recieve and rescue if possibl possible any one on a house top or a raft, and Angeline Riches and her leaders with several officers of their cavarly squadron keepts an eye open for any one needing help,even an unfortunate anm animal if they can reach him.They did rescue two cats, but failed to rescue a dog.
All morning long this had continued but not once was a person seen in the attic window of a house or on a roof, and when a house came very near, and they shouted ane yelled to attract attention yet no one appeared in an attic window.Once they passed a young Blengiglomenean Creature swimming the water and flapping its wings for sport raising great sheets of spray but that was the only live thing they did encounter.They almost collided with it, but managed to shove off, and it only looked critically to see what had hit it.
Tward noon Gertrude left her tent and confronted Jennie Turmer and Grace delinia who were then at work with boys clearing a jam that had come down against the raft. And what a transformation had come over her.Her eyes were bright from excitement, her cheek still showing the color slightly of the rose, and yet her beautiful purple uniform looked as if it had been showered with muddy water, her hair was still we wet, her face dirty, and this discovered to Gertrude the truthfulness of the boys carelessness in splashing her and almost destroying the pathetic beauty of her face and golden hair, and wonders of wonders, holiness nevertheless had touched the features of the girlscout leaders, touched them so that she looked then as sweet and as innocent, and as winsome as any child that could be seen.
"Gertrude"said Gracedelinia "Here's my friend Jennie Turmer who thanks you for all your kindness in sending all the help for her needed, and especially for preparing for her a n w new uniform."he she has been working with those boys three hours hours Gertrude, and I can say that a nicer sweeter, bterr better girlscoutbleader, I would not want to have near me.Oh Gertrude, she be lieves if David had a chance, he would be as good as the best.You should have seen her pray morning and night.Why last night she had to be almost forced from her knees by Angeline.God help us all, and her.God help her.Gertrude she wants to say something to you."
"Gertrude turned her eyes to Jennie.The hardness of her aroused feeling, the boldness of her commission were there in her face, but y just the same there was the sweet air of child Hood of which war seemed to rob her and the others of.
"Gertrude"she said--even her voice was lovely"I want you to have them all pray for me and you that our adventure will make good and we'll saftly reach Evangeline St Claire.The flood is getting very bad, its rising, and oh I'm so sorry."
"And Miss Turmer"put in Gracedolinia"What did you say you was going to ask Our Lord when you recieve Him to morrow?"
"Gertrude, I'm going to ask H9m Him to let me die for the cause if the nation is in danger od defeat."
Jennie's evident sincerity moved Gertrude so that she vou could not trust herself to speak."
"And Gertrude you must pray for me that I may keep up my good work and never quail.There's coming very bad times you know."

These child scouts, r9sk risking unseen, unknown dangers, floating on a huge log raft, on the surface of the worst possible flood of all floods written, of the worst possible fires on shore keeping them on the dangerous waters, fac ingan absul absolutely impossible fug future to the good, and yet over going onward, bravely, a d and unflinchingly, and still retaining their nerves and their innocence, could have brought the tears to any one.There had been fervent Communions made that morning before partaking of the raft, but while many Recieve recieved Our Blessed Lord with like sentiments of faith and love, I myself d doubt whether any brought such touching humility, as these brave child scouts for two dys on a raft, forced to risk the dangers there, than the greater perils, of the blinding infernoes on shore, greater dangers than a chance meeting with the enemy.. That Morning Mass with the Communion Service, had lasted over an hour before they had taken to the raft gain again, and it had been quite late in the morning before Gertrude has had taken her noon day meal.For some reason or other, she felt vey languid or tired, and after her dinner instead of going back to her tent at once, she rested in one of the wagons in the center of the raft.

It was half past twelve oclock ormore or more, before she went back to her tent, and there she found Angeline Richee, and Jennie turn Turmer and also Mildred Maxwell.

"Why Girls "Gertrude exclaimed"Haven't you stopped work to get your dinner yet?"

"No Gertrude"said Angeline."We couldn't go untill Dolores, and others came to relieve us."

"Jean was here too." added Jennie,"but the fasting so long since breakfast with all her work made her feel sick, and she's waiting for us in the mess hall.Gertrude she found this floating in the water, a bottle with a envelope inside.It might be interesting for you to see what it is.It might contain a request for help. And Gertrude I want to thank you again, and I promise you we are going to do our best to keep the raft on its good course."

"And Jennie"Gertrude said,"Are to to make a good successful trip all the rest of the day."!

"Oh I hope so Gertrude,it looks as if we shall be here on the water making trips for two weeks longer.We have planned to work every night too on hourly shifts, and we can keep the raft ever on the go."

"You will be welcome to do so."

"And Gertrude"punt in Angeline"would you mind our going over Georges typewriter, when he's not using it.?"

"What's up now."!

The three girlscout leaders began to make all manner of facial and manual signals at each other.Hildred seemed to propose something to which for a time the two other scouts strongly strongly objected.

"Gertrude"said ildred at length."It's a great secret, but we'll let you know in good time....."

And with this Gertrude had to be satisfied.The three uniformed innocents bade Gertrude an elaborate temporary farewell the three executing with perfect grace Angelines elaborate curtsy.

CHAPTER THREE.

.....COHOTA.....

I9

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AS THE GIRLSCOUTS LEAVE THE RAFT FOR THE AFTERNOON REST ON THE SHORE, CONCEALED IN A SWAMPED FORREST. FRIGHTFUL CARNAGE. THE ENEMYS ATTACK ON COHOTA. BEPPO EVANS CHANGES THE BARRICADES. EVERYTHING SWEPT BEFORE THEM. CANNONIA IN DISORDERED FLIGHT. CHRISTIAN PERSUIT.

ARE ARE, disaster and fortunes of war irreconcilable! Are they even far apart.Do they not in some cases, go hand in hand?These questions rose in Gertrudes mind full many a time that afternoon during that day of their afternoon part of the trip on the raft.Nearly all of the girlscouts in their first fervor, greatly indeed to the annoyance of Glandelinians on shore were making brave efforts to get to Evangeline St Claire, and consequently if not in consequence, there was mos if silvery laughter, more liveliness in the crews, and so forth than ever before despite the peril of their unc undertaking.At four thirty they became of the dangers of going by raft at night, started for shore to beach the raft, near a villiage known as Cohota, and then and there the name of that villiage way after this always summoned back to their remembrance, with all the vivid power attributed to" Alladins wonderfullamp" the perilous perilous hours of their landing and escape back to the raft the next day in the midst of the hottest inferno of conflict ever witnessed by them since leaving general Vivianis.

Skirting the deepest part of the roaring flood, within hearing of the railroad trains somewhere far beyond the fi forest fire line which rolled heavily by with their loads of yelling Glandelinian soldiers, the girlscouts fancied they heardwith a thrill of joy the heavy boom of far distant cannon, which told them some christian army was near.Indeed no voice of welcome, greeting the return of the wanderer from foriegn lands, ever sounded sweeter to home sick hearts than did the roar of the christian guns to Gertrude a Angeline and her followers on that eventful afternoon.

But the forest fire, and floods raged between them and their way of going, and had they ventured ass ashore during the time of daylight certain capture or destruction by the enemy would have awaited them.They were surprised to observe by means of field glasses, that it was a monsterous glandelinian army in the vinicity of the shore, and by the flag Gertrude said with a gasp-

"How did Mylotze get up here.I thought he was licked at Richees farm.!"

It was not Mylotzes army however but that of Beppo Evans and Cannonia, who had come thus far in advance of Mylotzes army which had slipped from Vivianis clutches after the last action and come all the way up here with the christian army in persuit. Gertrude nor her followers did not know then, that Vivianis was making a march almost as grand as Shermans to the sea, and that her father was contributing his brilliant generalship to the movement of all his main bodies, and that Germaine Vivian one of emperor Vivians sons had joined him for the time being.

The enemy had been steadily moving northward, before the advancing christian army and when Cannonia was first aware of what was following him, he sent the Glandelinian cavarly under Canpaul with instructions to cover the movements of his afantry, and stretched stretched out his front near Cohota in a swamped sections of the woods along the Cohota Road.About a mile or so north from there was the Turner Station on the railway connecting that town with far off Evangeline St "Claire,where a junction is made with the main Abbieannia and Bondonia and Calverine Railroad railroad line.

On the day the girlscouts were floating down on the raft, General Hanson moved toward Cohota, making a furious attack on the Ninth Corps of the Mangaboo division near the Railroad Station, and extending the line of e attack for ten miles along the line. The attack was desperate and of long duration, more and more troops being massed, under cover of a heavy artillery fire, and support ed by batteries of artillery, and it was the sound of these guns that the girlscouts heard.The attack was hurled with dreadful violence against the enemy but the Ninth Corps of the Mangaboo recieved reinforcements under general Fashio Gashen, and after three hours of fierce fighting, inw which twice fourty thousand were killed and wounded of the attackers alone, and ninty thousand of the enemy the assault was slowly and gradually repulsed, but the brave Mangaboo lost nine generals and fourteen corps commandors for their bravery.

Hearing that the attack was repulsed general Vivianis recieved warning from a group of officers who had made a reconnoisance in front tward the scene, began to advance his main force as swiftly as possible.General Francis Hanson in's whole division, led the column of general attack, and the first line of the enemy after resisting a most desperate charge were finally driven in.

The troops under Hanconia then advanced to take a long line of barricades behind which the strong line of general Cannonias army was posted, and the battle in that short space of four more hours along this point point assumed all the horrors, and fury of a thousand Gettysburgs in one.The attacks though bold and brave, and most determined, and supported by a terrific destructive artillery fire, failed of success, thirteen christian generals were wounded, Hansonia among them, and the attack was finally driven back owing to the overwhelming numbers massed behind the defenses than was at first supposed.

The second attack was made with the Tenth Abyssinkillian Corps, and Nineteenth Abbiannian Division in long columns of five on the right, and divisions of Angelinians and Calverinians on the left. The Ninty Fifth Angelinian corps went into the fight on the center. Colonel James first battery, and many others opened a murderous fire barrage of shells on the barricades at a distance of six hundred yards, but could not as they hoped compelled the enemys artillery to withdrawn. At this opportune moment, the order to charge was given, and in the most splendid battle array ever imagined the double lines moved forward upon the enemys works. The contest was a resemblance of one of those hun red mile front charges in the World War, was long, and s sharp in the activitiy, and most intense and the slaughter on both sides terrific, but the Glandelinian arms were again victorious and repulsed the attack all along the line, even though the Mangaboo troops of the first trenches had been compelled to flee from their defenses. The nationals after the repulse, fell back for a hundred yards or so and the Glandelinians them countercharged in terrific force, and the christian troops made fierce endeavors to check the progress of the Glandelinians by great counter charges, and terrible storms of artillery and musketry, and also by means of their strong bodies of cavarly. One of the Glandelinian onslaughts in fury and numbers made Picketts charge look like a moving picture. At one awful time during the murderous fight there seemed to be a prospect of great success indeed for the enemy, but general Cain coming up with the Fifteenth Corps of general Nero Vivianannas divisions made a most treneous c tremendous onslaught, with all their available forces, and supports of heavy artillery and machine guns, which after the most sanguinary fighting forced the shattered Glandelinian waves to give way. At one point of the conflict it was so terrific that along the enemys lines every one seemed to be falling dead and wounded, and the survivors under this dreadful cloud of destruction fell back to the railroads in panic and confusion, their general Mushmouth being mortally wounded, and Cannonia himself recieved a slight wound in the hand and two horses were killed under him. The Glandelinians then fell back to the town od of Cohota, tward noon and intrenched themselves in a new and stronger position, behind double lines of barricades, while Cannonia sent a message to Myle'ze begging him to hurry up to his assistance.

General Nero Vivianana was ordered to move forward, Viviania being determined to break the Glandelinian center under Beppo Evans,, and every command possible was ordered forward, Nero to command the full advance, to make his disposition of troops, accordingly, which was done as quickly as tele graphed orders down the line, and as the numbers and extents of the lines of troops would allow. The Eight Abyssinkilian Winkle Corps commanded by general Hans was at once moving forward, in advance of the long line of skirmishers, the Ninth Concentinian Corps commanded by general Kainer, holding the left in columns of ten by wave, the Third Abyssinkilinian corps commanded by general Greater had the center, while general Baldwinsonia with the Fifth Winkle and Domdobian Divisions, held the right.

The notes of many bugles pealed forth the well known charge, and the whole of Hansonias troops in long lines miles miles long, dashed forward with resist less fury and valor, driving the Glandelinians from their first position, and continuing on. The glandelinians from the second works opened a murderous murderous fire, annihilating the first christian wave of charge, and devastating the second, and then with wild yells counter charged in vast hordes driving them from the captured position, and regaining possession, and even continuing the attack with exceeding violence. Through Cohota and beyond it to the swamp region of the flood eighteen miles away the Nationals were compelled by sheer numbers and pressure to recoil fighting every step of the way, and turning the partly inundated region into a fierce inferno of slaughter and fire.

The battle surged up to and over and along the railroad lines, and raged most furiously to the station andbeyond, the tracks being destroyed by fierce shell fire, after which the recoiling christian troops moved back to St Anns Villiage, where they recieved reinforcements and rallied and held their ground untill general gran came up with his artillery and cleared the region of the Glandelinian hordes, moving every one down within range. The enemy was completely routed back to his own line of works, but general Viviania did not with the news of Myletzes arival dare continue the bloody action that day, for the enemy was not worsted, and most of the christian forces had been demorilized and it took hours to rally them. The christian side however had fought most bravely throughout this bloody day, and it was impossible to single out from among the officers individual cases of unusual gallentry where all did so unusually well. Judging from the enemys terrible numbers of dead and wounded left on the battlefield and half submerged in the inundated forest and fields his loss

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was no doubt most terribly severe, as upwards of two hundred thousand were left in the possession of the christians as prisoners, most being wounded by shells alone. In a great measure so far Myletze believed he owed the long march of his four strong Glandelinian armies, with so many heavy trains and wagons over three hundred and sixty miles of ground, through the christian territory, without the loss of a single battle or of a single wagon up to Richees farm and without the annoyances of christian cavarly dashes on his fln flanks to the movements of Husbaum Mic-ghirther alone. . .

Had Gertrude Angeline and her many followers been on the other side of the land at that time, they should have been able to either witness this days action of the battle, or been able to make their way to the christian lines, and thence forward shared the fortunes and glory of general Vivianias command, who was trying to frustrate Myletzes still successful advance tward Angelinia Agathia.

But instead of being able to fight for Country, they were to be doomed to to days of frightful silence in swamped forests, and upon the raft in the flood and to nights of weary travel, with many adventures, guided only by the stars above, and urged on by the very desperation of hope, despite the dangers con fronting them at every step.

Having heard the sound of battle so near, Gertrude felt that in the matter of Mischief, general Mylstze and the Glandelinian general Cannonia, appeared to lead all the rest, but the same was true as to their dangerous character, since the last drawn fight at Richees farm these two commanders had marched from that territory during the night, far around Vivianias army, and from that direction headed westward to avoid the low grounds, and finding the region impassable becaus because of floods went eastward, and then da capo. Viviania finally discovering this and knowing Myletze mediated mischief followed fast. It was evident so far that Mylstze was on a retreat, and therefore he had wished to frustrate him but now the two others had covered Mylstzes retreat, and fought the first action of the bloody battle of Cohota, which on the second drama was to be far worse.

Having heard the sound of battle George and many of the boyscouts were excited and disturbed. It was impossible for him to sink into the lethargy which characterized him during office or aide-de-camp hours, a lethargy which be it said which completely disappeared once he was on duty outside.

George had not yet got rid of his awe for the situation. The highest girlscout leaders presented to his imagination, all the glories of His own Country, and he firmly believed that the girlscouts were highest in esteem. Many of the girlscout leaders had not been slow to discover George's point of view in the regard of his countrys cause, and Gertrude noticed it, but Jean herself was prompt to avail herself of what opportunities it presented. He had scouted to some distance even at the risk of the fires to see where the battle had been raging, and when he returned Jean and Angeline Richees ably assisted by Mildredm took the brave youth in hand with unusual vivacity and characteristic energy.

In her own tent Gertrude Angeline, without showing too over an interw interest was able to follow the proceedings completely...

"George "began Mildred, "what army is that you was scouting on ,that is if you observed it."

"I couldn't make out the nationals, but its a part of Cannonias which was engaged" said George. He had been interested, he had from a height seen some of the ba fighting and the losses inflicted on both sides.

"Do you notice" said Jean in a very loud whisper "How Mylstze has been advancing all this time. His commanders have to guide themselves through the flooded territory where its shallow shallow, and move from line to line to avoid disaster. That's the way we all will have to do if we ever expect to reach Evangeline St Claire."

"And just see." added Mildred, "the way the flood is rising. See how worried George looks. He knows a lot believe me which he is afraid to tell."

"Did you ever notice Angeline" went on Jean "how George always scans the flood with his glasses?"

"And" said Angeline in answer "you ought to see how he acts when he sees something."

The boyscout, who had he been deaf, could hardly have missed the import of these words, dropped his book he had been reading, raised his eyes, and fidning finding that the three "fairies" were considering him with thoughtful regard, smiled.

"He does seem to kno w what to do in n any ase case." continued Mildred in the same far reaching whisper."

"He's a great boyscout indeed." commented Jean "You'd think he'd be afraid to go z away anywhere for fear we'd come into disaster.

"Perhaps its his instin ct that tells him." Angeline observed.

"He blushes," he she added "naturally enough, doesn't he."

"What a has h s hus his commission got to do with it."?Angeline Richee inquired.
"I was thinking"Angeline made answer"of part of a song mama and I used to sing. It brought a crowd many a time.

"There was a boy in the grand old army.
Who was uniformed in killing style;
His followers were so fierce and grand,
that the enemy didn't dare to come a mile."

George threw himself back in his chair, and looked a almost as dazed as he reallly was.

"G eorge"continued Angeline"Please take up that scouting trip again if you can before we resume the trip on the raft to morrow.I want to see whether Myletze loses the fight, or goes on with the advance.Oh that's it.Good."

Angeline seemed to have hypnotized the leader of the boy scout regiments.H e stood at attention and told he r he would do so.The three girlscouts gave George ten minutes of their valuable time, pointing out that if ever he grew up and became a general, they would stand him in good stead, but under present circumstances when he goes out, to go too near the danger zone was entirely unnecessay, unccessary, showing him how much more safer it was to go a little northeast, instead of straight east, and giving him good sound advice wi which he carried out to the letter T, for he desired to do so and thereby endeavored to carry ot court out their instructions, while they went off to the raft to see to the unloading of some supplies.

During the time of their interview with the boy, the girlscouts succeeded in crossing a part of the shallow flood, and landed on a safe part of the shore toward evening hoping the conquering Glandelinian armies which had swept onward no doubt was not no too close.But George soon struck the glandelinian trail, and followed it untill he at last reached within view of their positions ten miles off Cohota.He stopped or dined on the remains of rations thrown aside in the vacated camps from which the foe had been driven during the battle, and the country was full of evidences that Myletzes army was on the way, and the forest fire ten miles to the east of the camp, and moving rapidly northward. The bd beginning of the battle of Cohota baptized with new light light the silver star of general Vivianis, blazing always, in the front of war, and the soldiers of his vast army could ever feel a just pride in the glory accorded to their beloved commander whether he worsted Myl tze or not.

DRAMA TWO.

ON returning from his second scouting trip, George went to the tent where he expected to find the three girls, and they took up George again after he told all what he had seen and observed. First Angeline ascertained whether he knew for sure who the Glandelinian commander was, how he got there through the impassable region, as to whether he said his prayers when he made the dangerous scouting tour, r tour and wore his scapulars, and recieving favorable answers, expressed herself as being quite satisfied.

"George "she went on"Do you know that Myletze means no good at all."?

"No"said George,"Is general Viviania going to be able to do anything good at all.?"

"Not at all"said Angeline severely.

"What is the trouble?" asked George.

"He does not know him to carry himself against Myletze." exclaimed Mildred. "Myletze knows the country more than he does."

"I don't want him to take chances"said george."He'll put us all in a hole, if he does."

"He don't stand against Myletze right, he don't demonstrate right, he don't concentrate right, and he don't extend his armies right." exclaimed Jean. "I'm afraid Myletze will worst him, sweep him away and see his way close to Angelinia Agathia yet."

George who had risen smiled a sickly smile."He was apprehwnive apprehewive.

"And there we are" exclaimed Angeline,"with the biggest flood in the world, and Angelinia Agathia in danger from both.No on wonder you give us the stingiest smile , ever saw.I'm surprise any one us can even smile at all."

"You'd think" apostrophized Mildred"That a powerful country lke ours could have prevented this.When the enemy does something he certainly lets go."

Cero George walked p and down for ten minutes, not knowing what to think or do do.He knew it was a fact.The cause was in peril, and particular atention should have been paid attention by all communities of the States.Also Jean gravely gave him a few tips on his way of observations"tips"she cal calmly observed, which would keep the world from thinking the war was being lost,"which"she continued,it "it certainly is not."

Before leaving on a scouting tour of their own, Angeline marked with little slips of paper some dozen words, which she had written, and enjoyed enjoined George to typewrite three copies of each, one fir for herself, one for Mil dred and one for jean, telling carefully the size of the paper to be used ,and the ammount of margin and spacing--all this to be done against their

return.And when they did return, after an unusually long session outside in the smoky woods, the typewritten words done in Georges very best stype style were awaiting them.The girls were loud in their expressions of thanks, indeed, they were so pleased, that they must bring them to show to Gertrude.Of course in the face of such enthusiasm, Gertrude felt f bound to examine them with a certain deliberation.The dialogue in the next sectio section within hear i ng made it in Gertrudes Judgement, worth while prolonging this examination. Her eyes indeed were on the typewritten pages, but her ear and whole attention were absorbed in the speakers without.The three others also heard,

"Francis"came the voice of Jane Melfort"Is it true that you really followed Miss Richee and her followers secretly over to the left of these woods a little beyond the enemy, and almost got captured, to see whether they were in peril or not."

"Yes it is true.No it is not a lie.I went and done it."

"Yes, and you tell Mildred Maxwell that I am a reckless fool, and yet you do the worst ofall foolish things that any one can think of.Look at your uniform burned full of holes."

"No I did not mean to tell her that.I never meant to tell her anything. she asked me and I could not keep silent or tell a lie."

"Don't be rude Francis, it's hard enough to stand your grammer. Your telling does not bother me at all. but you critise my actions, and yet do a more reckless stunt than I ever did.And yet didn't you stay so long there, that a squadron of Glandelinian cavarly came up behind you, and it was merely by chance of a miracle that you escaped.What in the world possessed you to do such a thing."

"Oh geo"Crowled the boy,"I had to do something.I didn't like the looks of things, and I didn't know there were any Glandelinian patrols around"

"Francis Persued Jane severely"What possessed you to come forth through that flamingforest to even see how far the blaze extended.Did you doubt that those flames were real.There in the world are you going to get a new uniform.Wait untill Gertrude sees you."

"I couldn't help it." cried Francis."I never thought the fire was coming so near, Oh Lord."

"Well I'll let bye gones be bye gones"said Jane"But remember don't make remarks about my recklessness again, when you do such things yourself.I idea The idea, don't dare, dare do such things again, or we won't be responsible what will happen.Mildred cured me of my rushness otherwise I'd not be here now. Why heavens I never even done such a stunt as you, riding bodily into that horde of Wheeler cavarly, the worst lot of Scoodliers ever seen.They chan ced you like mad, and , and my followers had to fight to save you. Remember if you do that once more I'll discharge you from my command.Don't ever do it again." And there was the sound of a chair thrown roughly to one side, and of retreating footsteps not at all fairy like.

"They are certainly well done."Gertrude now said, that the dialogue had come to amend"and the wording is very beautiful."

Gertrude would you mind my having your tent to night from eight to nine?"

"I think it can be arranged."

"Oh it is arranged."

"Indeed?"

"Yes, George knows all about it, and Dolores.And Gertrude will you be in there too, Angeline and I have a surprise for you."

"I'll be on hand but alone?"

"Oh you'll not be alone Gertrude.All your and our officers will be there, and it'll be an important coul council."

In the meantime that evening the most famous battle of this part of the campaign was still raging.General Nero vivianias christian army had come up, on hearing the sound of battle a little earlier before, numbering about sixteen million five hundred and sixty five men divided into fourteen Corps, with a wagon train of fifteen thousand wagons all told, this immense train if being placed in a single ine would have been four hundred miles long. General Nero moved a portion of his army to the support of Vivianis who was in danger of being attacked tward evening, and he decided and did move his army through the heart of general Rayons hostile Glandelinian division, the center being th the objective point of the driving assault. Rayon was five hundred thousand strong, and his line stretched to the northward of Cotoha Cohota, but in order to take possession of it, and these two railroads mentioned previously, an an attack unprecedented in the war so far was und undertuken by the intrepid christian general Beppo Evans Richee under orders of Nero, who recently had just accomplished an attack of scarcely lessmagnitude across a line of the enemys works.One glandelinian wing lat at Hells bend on his right,another on the embankments of the railroad, on his left--the center swarmed with troops, while every step he advanced took him nearer to the heart of the enemys lines, and works. Then to save himself, the enemy to try to divert Beppo Evans's intention hurled forward a terrific attack upon the town of Cohota, but though the enemy pushed the lines back in that neighborhood, and raged the assault desperately for fu four hours the enemy could not reach his goal, and was repulsed with dreadful loss.

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Peppoe Evans after seeing the repulse of this part of the Clandelinian army, prepared to push his troops forward to make his proposed tremendous charge upon Cannonius works. The troops moved forward in grand long lines under all fire and despite the resistance they met they crossed large stretches of works, and swamp made ground by the flood, driving the Clandelinians ever before them. At one point the enemy opened a withering fire, just as the Nationals were traversing a mud bog of two foot depth bringing down so many soldiers in killed and wounded that the survivors were appalled abd began to fall back. Peppo Evans was determined to carry the barricades, and the attack went on with dreadful fury, and during this onslaught a tract of country partly flooded, and partly flooded on fire, ten miles in width and fourty miles in length was swept by the desolating Clandelinian artillery and musketry fire, almost simultaneously, the enemy hurling a special bitterness for the christian forces attacking them. To the right and the whole country as far as eye could see was converted into one vast bonfire. The pine forests within the battle zone were literally fired by the flashes of the exploding shrapnell, the risen asteries were fired, and the middle of the day looked black and gloomy for a dense smoke arose on all sides, clouding the very heavens.

The pint trees seemed so many huge pillars of fire, and the flames hissing and screeching as they fed on the fat risen and dry branches and leaves imparted to the forest indeed a most fearful appearance added to the horrors and clamor of the frightful battle. The battle raged fiercely all along the whole of Cannonias army, the two wings of christians under Stanislaw, and Sedney having arived within within a short distance of the main works and barricades. This part of Beppo Evans division supposing that after the repulse of the enemys attack on Yohoto Cohota, no further stronger opposition would be encountered, and only could could drive the enemy onward, struck across the fire and shell swept country from Hanson Angles command, to connect with the other wing of the army ten miles distance from it, under Herdrude who was driving the defeated Clandelinians, to the north of Cohota by way of Rae Creek which was a flood of its own.

Not many miles had been traversed however before the Clandelinians were reinforced, and he heard the thunder of guns to the left, in the direction of Stanislaws lines, and couriers soon came riding p with the news, that the Clandelinian forces under Johnston Stanck, were in Stanislaws front near the flooded creek, and that the battle was raging most furiously even though it was starting to get dark. General Herdrude immediately sent word to general Evans Pichee to come to his aid, stating he would hold ground till reinforcements could arive, and aids were dispatched across the country nder fire to the other generals, whose troppe troops were moving forward.

Calahan who was at that time near May Station, was ordered to come upon the enemy's rear by way of the Stone bridge across an unflooded creek near the railroad, while general Herdrude was directed to march on to Rae Creek and hurl the enemy back. Stanislaw was not at all alarmed by the sudden appearance of the Clandelinian rein o reinforcements in his front, for he had all his forces and artillery well posted, and all his batteries commanded the entire front, while a second line of battle established one qy quarter of a mile in advance, by the division of Zoe Rae Hancone, also was strengthened, and the whole column pushed on to renew the attack.

The Clandelinian right wing was first again broken, but the enemy cavarly under Baldwin was encountered, and their own artillery and infantry soon blocked the way, Johnston having come up with the intention of overwhealming general Vivianius army before the other columns of his main army could t come to its assistance.

The first dash of Stanislaws troops on the enemys advanced line, sent it back however with the loss of three hundred guns, and as many cassions and a lot of men in killed and wounded. Two divisions of Omarians were promptly deployed, and the same number of divisions of the Glandelinian Twenthieth Corps were brought p in support of their sagging line, and placed behind the barricades.

The thunder of artillery in the meantime, had summoned the christian cavarly to the aid, and his troopers under Salisbury were massed at the best point.

At seven oclock in the evening the onslaught was resumed with redoubled fury, the long lines of christians, in number threes rushing forward upon the enemys works in a wild headlong charge. But at this time the fire of the rebel artillery, and the steady blaze of musketry, which all the rebel lines poured into the christian ranks, sent their columns reeling back. Unmindful however of the repulse of their comrades, the other portions of the christian line rushed forward charging upon the Glandelinian works with a most terrific yell. But the Glandelinians stood like a rock in the path of this living wave of men and tore it to pieces, sending back the survivors in confusion and disorder. six times in the space of six hours more did Beppo Evans gallent troops rush to the attack, and as fiercely did the gallent rebels withstand the assaults now led by Beppo Evans in person. For all that time not an inch of ground was yeilded. Though before the christian had carried all before them it seemed evident their attack was checked, but the seventh charge which

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was redoubled in fury and numbers broke the Glandelinian army into three parts, and though the Glandelinian front quickly reformed, and executed a brilliant counter charge, they could not drive the christians back, and so close and desperate was the fierce conflict that many of the Glandelinian day lay among those in purple and even around the headquarters of the generals of both sides, within or without the works.

Orders during the height of the terrific fray were sent to general Herdrude, to call up the two immense divisions of Pomdobians, guarding his wagon trains, and Angels pivision of the Thirty Third Corps, these reinforcements enabling him to break down all the enemys resistance, in spite of the greatly outnumbering force of the Glandelinians. Ispatches from Stanislaw, Nero, and Terry O-Rourke announced the former two in possession of the enemys work under general Kinston who was killed, and able to press on at further orders, general Kain who also was victorious being near Rae's Station. Scholefield also was ordered to push for the left, and Terry to cross the swampy ground and drive Cannonias center out of the works.

Just before dark, Herdrudes division of the Thirty Third Corps, reported Cannonias left wing in flight, that he was sweeping everything before him and that Cannon Georges divisions of the Fifi Fifteenth corps, also reported the enemy to be retreating swiftly, having pushed on vis victoriously for hours, and coming back to where the wagon trains were moving. Hanson Ingle Angle succeeded in effecting a junction with Herdrude, and by eight oclock in the evening the whole strong line of battle of Evans army was moving forward against the enemy. Cannonia therefore did not find his covt coveted opportunity of fighting Beppo Evans army in detail without Husbaum Mic-Whirthers help, and Mylesis failing to arive, and his well formed plans for that day were thus rendered abortives.

Just as it was starting to get dark Herdrude entered Cohota with little opposition, and at the same time Terry Orourke was effecting a passage of a shallow portion of the flood ten miles above North Point. Blains division of the Eighteenth Corps of Abyssinkilians, on the extreme right though still fiercely resisted nearly succeeded in cutting off the enemy's only line of retreat on the North Curve of the railroad of the Abbieannia Bondinia and Calverine.

At this juncture of affairs, Beppo Evans recieved orders fro from Vivianis to move forward to a general attack, but it was not necessary, for Cannonia retreated to the support of Husbaum Mic-Whirthers work tward night fall, and the christian army went into camp at Cohota the goal of its desires. Here ended the first day of the wonderful battle of Cohota. The losses of Vivianias army at the first action of Cohota were 1,222,222 in killed and wounded, and 2,345,666 prisoners, one hundred and fourty five thousand of this number being killed and wounded mortally, exclusive of nine generals, who met their death on that heroic field. Beppo Evans lost three hundred and ninty thousand killed and wounded, thirty seven of whom were generals. Herdrude took three hundred and thirty eight thousand prisoners. The hchristian cavarly being held in reserve experienced few if any losses. The object of the battle being that day accomplished, general Vivianis being reinforced by his other armies encamped that night ready for the next move on the chess ward board of military operations.

In the meantime all this time the girlscout force heard the far distant roar of battle. They remained on their own part of the shore listening to, the rear and wishing they were either there or at Empeo Emperor Viviane army's At eight oclock, Gertrude entered her tent, awaiting the coming of the other girlscout leaders who had proposed the meeting. Gertrude took a seat between George and Jean who was the first to arive. There were fully fourty leaders present, all evidently expecting good news or information. Yet Mildred Maxwell and Angeline Riches were yet not to be seen.

Scarcely had Gertrude seated herself, when Mary Stanck, came in, and then appeared Angeline and Mildred, and what the council was even is kept secret from the reader just now. They were all beautifully and modestly attired in their uniof uniforms--one could seevin theur their uniforms the skilled work of the manufacturer, and the girlscout leaders all radient in smiles, made the famous ours curtsy Gertrude knew so well. The council was something of a debatement which gertrude seemed to aprove of, and yet so short in distance was it withal that the meeting gave no hint of the real purpose, and it yet expressed the poetry of motion. All the time they continually heard the noise of the distant battle. The following hour it was concluded, and there came then the Military Retreat as the last Drill of the day is called, and then the rest time before Taps or retirement. Every leader was all very well interested in the meeting none so much as George. He was absorbed.

"Gosh all fish Hooks" he observed to Mildred, three distinct times. "I wish I was a general."

"Now Gertrude" cried Angeline Riches, as she and Mildred rushed out and caught her Hand, "Now we can settle this by to morrow. We got this meeting p just to please you. Oh Gertrude wasn't you surprised."

"I certainly was. The meeting was the most interesting I ever yet had, it was like a council of fairies."

"Why Gerr Gertrude" exclaimed Angeline, great delight on her expressive face,

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"That is precisely what we are trying to be,we imagined we were the fairies of Abbieannia."

"And we are all human faries fairies girls.You Angeline, are the Fary of the Girlscout Corps, and you Mildred, are the Fay Fairy of Abbieannia.."

"Oh "Cried Jean,"You have given me a capital bit of matter for thought. We can put something over on the enemy withthat."

"Oh Angeline"said ,ildred"Went over all our work, and cut a lot of plans out for us.And Gertrude, Mildred has tought me a lot of flag signals,"

"he's an apt pupil."commented Gertrude."I've never seen any girlscout to whom work in scouting comes so natural.We could all go at on the raft to night, but for the love of God don't let any one do it to night.It all well enough for us by day, but we must not do anything at night untill things settle down. Listen to the flood.It's awful."

"Say Gertrude"said George, as they went down from shore tward where the raft had been beached"It was great."

Angeline and her two friends made much of going on shore to scout. tward eight thirty Gertrude before the call of taps sounded, happened to be passing her tent on her return from the woods where she had gone to find out whether she could still hear the sound of battle, when Dolores, who was just then walking past, accosted her.

"Miss Aronburg." she began,"Have you noticed anything strange about Francis. Jakeson lately?"

"Beyond the fact that I overheard Jane scolding him about somethig something I can't say I have."

"Well come on and just take a peak at that portion of the woods."

On horseback they went toward the woods, tward which Dolores indicated. The twilight was well advanced, we they were in the dark when they reached the woodd woods. The woods further off however was just then illuminated by three distinct blazes.The two girlscouts therefore could see what was going on without being seen.Francis was seen some distance off, and in a position to which to their gaze gave the two girls the impression that he was about to try and put out the blaze himself. And glandelinians were near by in a position as if they were about to make a "hundred yard dash" at him.Prs Presently the Glandelinians, started, francis saw them too, and also started.olding in one hand a pistol, the lad started dashing away.it was easy to tell from the yelling the glandelinians set set up, but only from the yelling, that Francis had been seen by them up to some thing or other.In running the lad changed his steps from time to time,and whenever on occession, he swung around, he leveled his pistol, and opened fire bring down a glandelinian for every shot, and driving the others into confusion.m---couraged by his success, Francis undertook to leap for his horse, in which feat the reader may know he was unusually successful.Francis was starting to smile.

The Glandelinians started racing forward after him in a swarm. uddenly there was a blinding flash, and the concussion threw the two girls flat upon their backs, and a great cloud of sparks and flashes of fire flew in all direction, and amid the roar of falling trees, the Glandelinians retreated in confusion, a number of them having been caught in the trap and killed killed,. Francis was thrown from the horse by the shock, but he picked himself up, and then as the girls rose to their feet he rode tward them, and halted at their appearance.

As the lad stoppee before the two girls, despite his excitement he looked anxious and overcome by the heat.

"What's the matter Francis!Up to your reckless deeds again!"Gertrude inquired almost severely, as she directed him by motion of her hand to dismount."

"Gertrude those glandelinians were up to something and I stopped them."

"Oh they were? What planning to raid the camp."?

"No Gertrude,they did not know the camp was here.They were however to frustrate general ivianla attempting to fire the forest too close to our camp and I tried to stop them, and that's why I went down there."

"Were any of your followers on the bill?"

"No I was on the bill myself.I did it single handed."

"Angels and ministers of grace defend us." Dolores and Gertrude both quoted.

"What's that you said Girls?"

"Did you place any explosives Francis?"

"Yes Gertrude.I didn't give the enemy a chance to reach me."

"What did you do.?"

"While I placed the explosives I held them off with a small machine gun I carried."

"You did?What kind was it?"

"A hand machine gun, the kind like Miss Jennie Turner uses."

"Francis, do you mean to tell me that you had the nerve to appear before a presumably crowded force of glandelinian soldiery, and while threatening them with the machine gun, place explosives to gap the fire.?"

"Yes Gertu Gertrude, but that was all the further I got."

"What happened did you break down ,r or run out of ammunition ."?

"No Gertrude, I did not break down, but the glandelinians rushed me from the three directions, and one hollered "No you won't stop the fire either you brat,"and the rest shouted"kill the little devil"and things you would lnot like me to say.and then every me began to fire and I had to hide behind a tree and then---and then--"

"Well what then francis?"

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Gertrude 27

"Certrude I got the drop on them, and fired till my pistols were empty.Then I used the machine gun as I threatened and brought many down."

"How did you do it?ow was it done."?

"Certrude the machine gun was goodand it stopped their attack, untill I could race away.I got to my horse just as the blune occ blast occured...."

"But Francis, what in the world possessed you to take out on such an adventure. Surely you are not tired of life.I heard Jean critize you for something you did before, because you told on her for her own recklessness ?"

"I don't know Gertrude.Some of the boys dared me.And besides I didn't want the fire to come upon our refuge, and thought I might stop the enemys plan.And I did."

"But Francis, don't you know that it isn't very nice or respectable to us to go out on such dangerous adventures without our knowing it.Don't you know that such incidents and adventures are exceedingly dangerous, and far from safe, almost suicidal.Don't you know that you are very likely to be apt to meet with untimely death, or reciere a wound from which you'll be laid up for life.?"

"Certrude I didn't know anything about it.But I'll not do it again."

"I should not like any boyscout, whether he is a leader or a private, working in my command to be seen out on such dangerous adventures.Respectable boys and girls don't do such things."

"Certrude"said francis "Jean saunders came to try and bring me back, and when the enemy persued one of her followers, a boy by the name of Jack Hans deserted her when she was hit.She is severely wounded.I had to bring her back before I came upon you here.she's lying in her tent."

"what's that"Cried Certrude, jumping to her feet.

"She was deserted by the coward"said francis with a sneer.The old oriegn devil ran away and left her. he was badly wounded in trying to bring me ack back from my folly as you may call my action, and her sister is just crazy. Every one is talking about it and Angeline Richee is wild about that coward. She doesn't know what to do."

Indeed Certrude felt suddenly ill.Had francis hit her in the face with his whip he could not have astonished her more.Little Jean saunders, the daily Communicant, Jean Saunders, the child in whom she had descerned, such candor ,such innocence, such refinement, poor Jean shot by the enemy when she was trying to bring francis back to his reason, and one of her escorts deserting her.It was incredible.

"Francis"she said "if you are telling me a lie I'll"

"yes Miss Aronburg, she was deserted when shot all right."

Then a great anger surged through her.She followed by Dolores, and Francis rode back to the camp, and reaching her tent, said to George;

"George get Jack Hans to come here at once.Bring him if necessary under guard." saying which she entered her tent, closed the entrance and then fell to brooding. This was the worst she had ever expected. Cowardice in her camp and a little oriegnor, another English. She remembered the cowardly Englishman who had caused the disaster at the battle of Delight's junction, and who was sentenced to die by the Vivian Girls themselves. Had it been her own sister she could not have been more chagrined. The poor child scout had raised such high hopes in her, and now she was laid low, and deserted by a cowardly boy.Honest anger, and the awful truth of it filled her heart with bitterness. The boy was finally brought between George and Angeline Richee herself.

"Well"said Certrude holding her head proudly"you certainly are yellow ain't you.I u suppose you realize your self Mr Jack Hans what you have done. Deserting a girlscout, when she is shot by the enemy and wounded.what a contemptible thing you have done indeed.A deserter, a coward.You oriegn devil speak.what did you do it for."

"I couldn't help it.I was afraid."

"Afraid? Then I have no need to enlarge upon that feature upon it"Certrude continued.Su "uch a cowardly action on the part on any girlscout or boyscout in this command--especially from my own, would to put it mildly surprise me very much, but to have a boyscout desert a wounded girl of whom the whole force has so much interest, and to every one of which she has been so kind and good, and helpful, it is shocking. Like all others I trusted you in the Regiment, and we all thought we could depend on you.and you have deserted Jean, when shevf was hotly persued and shot.I didn't expect anything like that.you can go, back to your tent a prisoner, and I'll tend your case to morrow."

And the boy being taken away left her to darkness of heart.The next day for her and all the others was to have been a busy one on the raft, the trip was to be resumed, and so pulling herself together, she got to work, and not without difficulty banished from her thoughts the awful incident. yet through out her hours of trying to even sleep, there was deep down in her heart a feeling of utter misery, a sense of something wrong, of gult done to Jean, of wrongly desertion, of injut injustice.Yet she felt sure she could not punish Jack by having him shot as a deserter, and therefore she was at oo odds and ends of what to do. A few minutes after daylight started to come on, she happened to raise her eyes and noticed not far from her bed on a small table a bouquet of beautiful roses.

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indeed Gertrude had observed them when she first entered, but had been too disturbed by thedesertion of Jean to give them any attention. Now she rose from the cot, and as she did so observed a card of pink color attached to the stems by a cord. She arose first dressed herself, and then with languid interest, gave it an examination. It was a very pretty card, and the writing upon it was done with the most greatest care indeed. Then as she slowly read it, her heart grew as heavy as lead;

"To Angelinia Aronburg
With sincere love and devotion;
From;;;
Jean saunders, and her sister."

The child scout, good well trained, had spent her leasure time to show Gertrude her grati ude, and with those flowers, beautiful roses, wherever she got them scattering their fragrance over her head, Gertrude again realiz ed the fate of poor Jean.

"David" she called to the cavarly soldier who was doing sentry duty outside "Go at once to the north end of the camp and tell Dolores, I would like like to see Angeline Richee as soon as possible."

The sentry returned presently."

"Miss Aronburg, Dolores says, Angeline richee is in attendance with Jean and cannot now leave her bedside. The child is very ill from her wounds. Her big sister is apprehensive."

Gertrude closed the door, and settled down to make an examination of the situation. Being thoroughly humbled and shamed over this new kind of misfortune, she was able to see the whole truth in the clear white light of truth. It was plain to her at once, for good and all, that she had been right to her stand, that the deserter should face a firing squad, and she decided to call a meeting over it. Every foriegner after this before being allowed to enter the camp should be called to order. The Christian camps was not for them unless they could prove they were brave. Why did she even go out into such dangerous territory. Had Gertrude known it how easy it would have been for both and the boy Francis too, had she been able to point out to her the dangers, the suicidal dangers of such actions. After all she was but a scout, and now a very inexperienced child. The frequentation of the sacraments had guarded her innocence, and she was a good scout. Had she been more sophisticated, she would have known that those woods had their secret dangers. A few words of warning, and she would have thanked Gertrude and gone away all the better for the interview. But the tragedy seemed to have happened. How badly wounded she was Gertrude did not as yet know. No wonder Gertrude had given loose to her anger.

A coward to her is like dragging her heart into the fire. Her memory from this point went back to other months, and other deserters she had scolded and punished, and with capitol punishment too. She could recall ten of these poor deserters, and could not recall a single case where the deserter was not a foriegner, while several had been even Spaniards. Going back further still, she brought to memory, the desertions she had suffered in earlier campaigns. They were all it happened in Violet's command. Two different foriegners had deserted her, as the boy had Jean. The desertion of one had given her hours and hours of misery, the others had almost brought her to almost abandon the scout vocation, she had cherished from the age of eight. How difficult, she reflected it is to carry out any work when you MUST have deserters in your camp. It is easy to call to order, it is very difficult to do it right. And here, in the midst of flood, fire and enemy, she realized she was facing another deserter.

"Lord be Merciful to us all." she groaned, and these words as she then uttered them were as good a prayer as ever any one ever made, for they came from a little heart thoroughly humbled and sad. She finished "Lord show me through the outcome of the meeting what I should do to the deserter."

During this time the christian armies for the night as stated before had beat on its main chosen ground, the concentrated armies of the other sections of Cannonia's army, which had fled in disorder, leaving a hundred thousand dead, and five hundred wounded, and many prisoners in the hands of the Nationals. and burning all the forests on his retreat.

On the center Major general Newsorn entered and occupied Turpo, and Major general Capual secured all pontoon crossing of the upper flood lands and laid during the night by the help of fire glow and the moon pontoon bridges across other water covered land so that they hoped to make Myletizes campaign a disastorous defeat. After an onslaught of the most extraordinary character, over the water covered ground deemed impossible to be passed by others, at the most inclement section of the woods, they drove the enemy from the works pell mell. The total christian loss was small compared to that of the enemy.

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CHAPTER FOUR...

CAHOTA ...II

MYLETZE AND HUEBAUM MIC-WHITHER IN CONSULTATION.
IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING CAHOTA. A DREADFUL FIGHT.
THE GROWING TROUBLES OF THE GIRL SCOUTS.
THE LAST ACT IN THE DRAMA OF THE BATTLE.
IN WHICH GERTRUDE AND ANGELINE SEES A NEW LIGHT,
AND ENTRUSTS ANGELINE RICHEE WITH A NEW SECRET.
AN UNUSUAL SURRENDER.

When Cannonia was driven from his works during the first day of this frightful battle, after the conquering sweep of Beppo Evens christian armies through the region of flood and fire,, it was no less a mission than to for general Izner Myletze who had come up with his armythat late hour of night to consult with general Huebaum Mic-Whirther, concerning a great move against the victorious christians on the orrow. morrow.

During the night night the two Clandelinian generals met, and over the situation of the day before held a most anxious and stirring consultation. General Cannonia who had managed to rally his divisions was also there, and exthusically welcomed the "Hero" of the Angelinia Agathia campaign. On the deliberations of these two Clandelinian generals in chiefs, hung the fate of the campaign, but neverwhele nevertheless. when the council was ordered, the next day part o and movements of the battle had been planned. Every sign of the military army of these Rebel Angelinians indicated a speedy termination of this new action of the battle but Mylatze and all with him knew certainly that a faire move at this crisis of the action would absolutely overthrow the good results already obtained, and prolong the awful battle against their desires and plans..

Well might these two great Clandelinian chiefs of this mighty rebel army be full of anxiety.

But through or though the the emergency was vast, their genius mastered it. While during the night b general Noro Viviania was destroying the railroads, and crippling military resources nearest the Clandelinian army, general Stoneman of the rebels was doing the same work in the direction of the christian right., and general Cannonia Hunders was marching a Gargoylian Cavarly force of 10,000,000 men into the heart of the region. At the same time General corner baldwin, after having drie driven a portion of Viviania cavarly out of Turners Creek, and making large captures of christian prio prisoners, and mnitions of war, was sweeping forward tward Noro Viviania, sending consternation into the generals who could not tell what the insurgents were about.

Demolished railroads, an increase of flood waters, the horrible menacing forest fires, terrific nightly artillery duels, broken canal locks, levees of streams, and burning bridges, and dreadful explosions marked the path of the night activity. With this grand combination of movements, Myletze hoped and believed that the mighty christian armies would now have nothing to rely on, but he did not knew that the new action of the battle he was in preparing, would though vociferous delay his prospect of continuing the campaign. At midnight general Cannon joined the army of Myletze, and was immediately sent around the left wing of the christian line, to take possession of the railroads not yet destroyed, thus holding Noro's line of retreat incase of the evacuation of the captured works. But Myletze wished to strike the christians before general Viviania would come up with the main army.

Two hours before the commencement of the main movements of the rebel armies, at about two o'clock in the morning, the christian forces under cover of smoke from forest fires, made a sudden dash on the works on Huebaum Mic-Whirthers Right, held by general Perron, and after a desperate struggle in which the firing on the enemys side looked like the undulated sheeted flames of blast furnaces and infernoes of the infernal regions finally carried it by the most desperate assault of the night. It was a bold and unexpected but rash stroke, and the christians seizing the Clandelinian guns, turned them pon the main Clandelinian works and shelled it. But the Clandelinian artillery blazed fiercely for hours upon the victors with destruction, and, from all quarters with such persistent energy and horrible results, that the guns being disabled, the troops in purple were finally obliged to abandon their newly captured prize. In this assault the Clandelinian loss was nine hundred and sixty nine thousand killed and wounded, and they took only nineteen thousand prisoners.

The other Clandelinian corps were ordered to counter charge, which they did, carrying the christian picket line in front of the main works captured the guns before, and taking eighteen thousand eight hundred prisoners. During this dreadful fray, it was decided that Cannonia who was rallied, and who had been reinforced, should return to his army, and making a flent as if to move up the shore of the flood to the west of cohota, march rapidly south to the line on the left. This would be closing the last door

of Noro's advance, and Myletze knew that the moment Cannonia approached the Gertrudes.Creek, the former would be compelled to evacuate the captured works taken in the first days day battle.

DRAMA III..

It was yet a matter of wonder that general Noro Vivienia remained so long in the captured works.His army threatened to melt away,through its large proportions of dreadful losses, for he withstood five.terrific charges in the face of dreadful odds.The Glandelinians hurled at him in waves, relled reeled back before.his scathing fire, only to return, strike in dreadful wedging force, and not being able to crush him, tried artillery, storming his lines with grape and Canister but still he would not yeild.From this when morning came Myletse was full of anxiety le lest Noro Vivienia,and his army should slip from his grasp, by effecting a junction with Sladers and Dick Slaters Divisions of Herdrudes Corps,.thus compelling new plans and actions of the battle.At this horrible time Cannonia with a force of Hobbonites and Turmerennians, commend commenced his advance, and reached Mic-Hollester's Creek, before daylight.General Constantine saw his advance and struck a staggering blow, but could not hold him.back, and in the height of the conflict,Cannonia push on, and the Divis ons in prole purple under Constantine began to reel back.General Huebaum Mic-Whirther held the extreme left,.Rufens the rebel right,, while,others,occupied the immdiate immediate position. Huebaum pushed forward tward the left of Cohota, in a frightful shell storm, which made certain portions of the territory impassable, and hi he had to cover his advance with a terrific artillery fire of his own.

Cohota was a town partly flooded but in a point in the woods, where two railroads .cross.The possession of the Junction would give the rebel armies a good choice of advance northward, and the point therefore was a stragetic one.

The position captured by the nationals the evening before was filled with various defenses, constructed of logs and earth, and the approaches to it both flank and rear were blocked by abatis and felled trees, behind which general. Wienstiens troops were stationed. General Cannonia made fierce endevors to take possession of Cohota, and general Whitestone advanced on the christian fortifications down the half flooded railroad line.Hoodwinks division.had the advance under fire., but managed after making a headlong charge to drive the christian troops back upon their main works a mile an d a hald below the roads, and dropping them as flies as they retreated, to the east.

At this point recieving reinforcements from the main works the defeated christians made a desperate rally, and rushed with such impetuous force upon the advajcing Glandelinians, that Cannonias left wing, though making the most stubborn resistance, was compelled to give way.It was completely rolled up from the field, and thinned out with losses, and the fivisions under Gaine, and Hades which came next were also driven back, and Gain was killed.

But now Cannonias left being reinforced by a division of the Second Mangaboo Corps, was ralled rallied, and counter charged the advancing Abyssinkilians, regaining possession of the railroad but at dreadful loss. At this juncture however, the christians reinforced heavily, readvanced in trpile triple strength against Cannonia, and after a terrible battle of four hours duration managed to drive him back to where he had started his attadk attack.Here Cannonia instead of falling back on the main army, deployed his unengaged troops, and made a defense along a long stretch of territory making the progress of the Nationals who deployed the battle along a vast stretch of woods slow, but neverthelesss did not stop their advance, and the carnage became immeasureable. General Cannonia finally with his Center broken to pieces, sent word to Myletse how the situation was,and Huebaum Mic-Whirthers Sixteenth Corps of Scoodliers with general Dargine Ninth Corps of WOmmerians were at once ordered to his aid.

The reinforcements reached him at nine thirty in the morning, and Cannonia again endeavored to regain his lost positions.

His assault this time was irresistible and fierce, and yelling their blasphemious Devil yell like savages, his attack drove the Nationals who has had assaulted him back into the captured entrenchments, and then a general attack was immediately ordered..The Division of Scoodliers under Crater, and the Sixteenth Corps of Scoodlliers on reaching the railroad made a left wheel, and burst on No ro Vivienias right flank, and rear like a tornado of wind, drove it from the captured.works with.dreadful loss, and rapidly pushed on---orders having been given to the Scoodlier generals that if the e christians was ousted from the works, there should be no halt to reform broken lines as delay would be dangerous.

As probably stated before,.the firing of the Sixteenth Corps was the signal to general Huebaum Mic-Whrither to assault all along the line, which was promptly responded to, and the captured works was soon recall recarried at all points but at the left by the fierce Scoodliers and Mangaboos who charged desperately and gallently.The christian troops were driven from these .long lines of captured works, and completely routed by sheer pressure,

The Sixteenth Corps of Scoodliers doubled up the left flank of the recoiling christian troops in the greatest confusion,and the Glandelinian cavarly under general Baldwin, dashed onto and across the two lines of railroads like thundering waves, recapturing the works at all points and turning the recaptured artillery upon them, and riding into their broken ranks like a teeth fine comb through hair, and so demorilized them, that they made no serious stand after the line of works had been recaptured, but was forced to take to flight in disorder.Between fifty five and sixty five thousand pri soners fell into the hands of the enemy, and the fugitives were driven northwestwards, until general Noro Vivienia threw his line of forces in their way and made great efforts to stem.the tide of disaster, but could not do so,.and had to stand ground fiercely to cover their retreat.A fierce onset was made upon him.all along the line, but now for the time being the enemy could make no headway, untill a part of Noro's army was taken in the left flank then he too.had to abandon the position. and recoiled for a distance of six mles miles.

General Izmer Myletse recieved the report of this victorious assault, about one thirty, and in order to retain the psition position, immediately ordered Huebaum Mic-Whirthers full four divisions to reinforce Cannonia at Gertrudes Creek. Simultaneously a heavy bombardment of the main christian lines who now hold their own works was ordered, and kept up with terrible and most violent fury. Then Huebaum Mic-Whirthers army in three long lines swept forward in a most dreadful general attack, a thousand times as fierce as all the fighting at Gettysburg put into that one dreadful onslaught at this point.

The battle now raged with redoubled fury.General Cannonia also moving forward carried his whole roaring yelling line of battle through the christ ian line in his front, capturing scores of thousands of prisoners and a large number of guns and wagons. Pushing forward, he met the Corps of General Lordling, and making a junction with him tried to ham the christian troops in on that side of them, while Humphreys Wallace joined Cannonia on the left,and.Gillions Corps captured the works south of Cohota during one of the fiercest charges of the battle on this day. The battle was raging most furiously and savagely along the entire lne, the Christians now fighting with the most desperate valor ever imagined.But at this juncture Huebaum Mic-Whirther charged down.upon.Vivienias flank and rear with such force and fury as to drive them from their own defenses almost panic stricken.Again large numbers of guns and prisoners fell into the hands of the enemy While the fierce battle was raging so wildly, general Myletse and his assistant Beppo Evans were both awaiting the result of the contest, within a few miles of each other.Myletse was at his own headquarters, thoughtful and anxious.Beppo Evans was moving up with his armies as fast as men could march to support him.In the midst of the advance, an orderly splashed with mud rode up and handed him a paper.Glancing at its contents he saw that Myletse was becoming victorious, and a few hours afterwards he was moving faster.That afternoon all of the beaten section of the christ ian armies withdrew from the recently captured, and battered portions of their own works, and withdrew from Cohota,and commenced the retreat tward their last line of defenses.If these could not be held the battle would be lost and again Myletse would be victorious as he had been previously before at the Gladys Junction horror, and Himmlee Ammee.

In the meantime a troublesome noisy nigh night passed for Gertrudes girlscouts very quickly, and morning came with an unusually fine set of noise and clamor somedistance northwest of them but far off.These fine set of girls with none more promising than Angeline Riches were up early and break fasted.She and Mildred, had owning to a good nights rest despite all the excitement, spent it good.As soon as breakfast was over, Angeline paid Gertrule a morning visit before the raft should be launched again.She was timid, cordial about the situation, flood, fire, and battles so near, and so u many unseen dangers, but it appeared reserved. Between the Corps of Girlscouts and their boyscout escprts and the cavarly, the fires and floods had produced a ga gap of far seperation from their destination, of which the blind anger of the Wars Floods had been the main architect. What she could to think of some way to make a short cut to Evangeline St Claire Gertrule did.She tried to explain to Angeline, how the situation was, how she could not think of punishing the coward,, and the girl begged of her to forgive the boy justonow and not place him before a firing squad untill it could be found out how Jean would fare. If Jean dies God help him. Yet she could not she said think of a way to make a easy reach for Evangeline St Claire.Fires, Flood, battles, suffocating fogs of smoke, and other complications hindered their plans.

Gertrule believed her, she meant what she said, but the awful difficulty remained.Gertrule had lost it became clear to her, the plans she once poss essed.For a long time Angeline Riches was easily first in the class of making plans.In the use of typewriters, studying codes, and chiper dispatches she was already far advanced, and as Doloran told her, she could if she wishe wished become as clever as the Gemini themselves. Yet she was "Dumped," might as well been Dumb.She didn't know what to do. What she said under

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her breath about the enemy though not sing sinful words are not fit for printing here. Every one had hoped ace a decised falling of the flood. Every one had grown listless, and worried, and wondered what was wrong. Angeline Richee the main leader, which she was without effort, and a professional guide, and chief a scout, felt sure she was outwitted. More than once she had called her leaders to councils--carefully and lengthy, indeed, for she had nce learned her lesson in the far past school of blunderling, and all had listened to her suggestions, respectfully, but unmoved. She tried to explain herself, but Dolores, Jane, Mildred, and Mary stanck had asked her then to try and work miracles.

It was from Mary Stanck that Gertrude learned, that Mildred had set her heart upon pushing through the flood with the raft as before the only way it seemed. She and others had been on the lookout Mary told her for opportunities to crush through every floating jam, and other floats of the flood and scarcely an hour had passed during the trips on the raft, that she was not watching with her glasses.

Gertrude called her to council. She admitted it had been her ambition to go the flood at all costs, nor could any arguments of others against such a further step with the flood increasing, make any impression on her. They had urged objections clear enough to herself or themselves, but the girlscout seemed to miss their meaning, and yet Gertrude did not object. She could not see the dangers, perhaps they thought, she would not. It was borne upon them all that there was too much said upon the first appearance of the flood, the restule being that Angeline and Gertrude discounted anything any one else suggested on the subject. It remained for all then to commend the whi whole matter to God.

Almost simultean simultaneously with the preparations for launching of the raft, all kinds of troubles began to visit them. A fire destroyed some of their tents, and when out on the flood, their raft despite all the efforts of the boys at the paddles crashed and was partly wrecked, and they had to rush to shore for repairs. The littler children told the story of fatigue and torment from heat and thirst, the dirty condition of their uniforms ,ti in their worn shoes and in their faces. When the broken raft was l boached, all the men soldiers were once more called upon to repair the damaged sections. Then came snipping fire from shore from rebels hidden in ambush. One man fell and they all were forced to endulge ina furious skirmish while the work went on lasting nearly two hours. The usual result followed, more girls and boys were injured, twenty soldiers were killed, ten mortally mo wounded and their provisions injured.

At the instance of the scene Gertrude and others paid Jean a visit . he was ve y sick very sick from the effects of her injuries, and every one was very remourseful. There was no need to question her, she brought p the subject of her hurts herself and how she recieved the , and there were tears in the eyes of many.

"Gertrude" said many of the girlscout leaders "I'll do anything you say to a pay the enemy back. I We realized what a shameful thing they have been doing, and we'd would rather lose an. y eye or a hand, than let the enemy go on doing as they have. Sometimes we feel like l killing. killing all the enemy. The whole country would be butter off, if the enemy was destroyed. Gertrude we swear we'll fix the enemy for all this."

"I believe you girls" "answered Gertrude, and I and you best leaders are going to study out what can be done. When we get together again to night we can study out what can best be done. Angelinebyou can aid us all. and ou can give every plan a throughout examination, after which we'll decide upon what is best to be done. Meanwhile I'll continue to hold Jack a prisoner untill wecsee how Jean pulls through."

"No let's have the meeting now" suggested Angelin-.

"No we have to continue our trip." Said Gertrude. "The proper moment is a very much overworked term nowadays, but much as I dislike using it I must say that it is the precise moment we went to visit Jean."

"Have you found out anything."?

"I certainly have, and if you will pardon the repetition, I have found it ought a out at the proper moment, we are in a situation that it'll be almost sucide to attempt a trip on the flood to day. You see we ruined our raft and suffered a loss." And saying this, Angeline smiled serenely.

"Of course Angeline if you consider such a stange of the flood a merry jest, I have nothing to say-"

"Stow that sarcasm, Gertrude. In this case, while not exactly a subject for howling hilarity it is a matter rather pleasant to contemplate upon than otherwise."

"How."

"Don't you understand?"

No."

"There is a long stretch of land for a good camping ground about ten miles north of here. We must go there, till Jean recovers from her wound,, and I have little doubt but that in the course of a few days, she will be com pletly cured I hope. She says she'll do anything you say, and you will say it to please my way. When we get there we can keep clear not only of the

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enemy but of all dan dangers of fire, and the continual rising of flood, and we can recieve good shelterthere, and our doctors the best we have can tak her in hand and see that everything that can be done will be done. It is possible that she'll be well regardless of her wounds in six or seven days but we'll stay there till you say the word."

For the next three or four hours. the best doctor, andseveral of the girlscouts, and all the girlscout leaders were busily engaged in consultation as to ways and means to keep the whole regiment on the go saftly and without misadventure. and without the necessity of crossing the dangerous flood all the time, to such effect that what at first looked impossible gradually came to seem feasible. Before any trip would be resumed that day Angeline Richee decided to go out to see if there was a way to go further by land, the getting or securing of the proper roads being a detail, which Mildred Maxwell who would accompany her would see too personally. Jean who was ill of her wounds would be watched every minute. As Angeline Richee would be obliged to leave camp early in the forenoon, and may not return till late in the afternoon, Mary Stanck was appointed leader, as she was the highest next to Angeline Richee.

Angeline readily excu excused those of her following from class till nine in the morning, and as all the girlscouts were good scouts, Mary should be able to at end to these new di duties of hers, and at the same time keep up with her classes. And so it came to pass that Angeline Richee disappeared from the scene for a few hours, and the rest of the companies entered upon a new order.

Mary Stanck was a skilled leader indeed, and warned for herself a reputation, which though relished by her followers, was not at all desirable for the glandelinians ... Mary Steak Stanck moreover saw to it that always the girlscouts and others were provided with provisions, and they had all developed wonderfully in their proper way. In a word, by raids on enemy camps in the past they had been free from want, well nourished, well dressed in shining purple uniforms, and it must be well or frankly stated they were far happier in a way in this adventure then when in a big camp of the christian armies. Yet there were always anxious vigils on sentry night duties for guards, but nevertheless there were no slumbers broken by the approach of enemiew or fire or any threatening methods of their "Wet neighbor" the flood.. Mary herself, as her work showed, was the strongest of the little girlscouts, and was even then gaining weight and strength,, and so there being nothing to worry about, all were tranquil of face, happy and gay of manner, and as b good as ever can be.

Gradually the flood seemed to be lowering but at least by an inch. Dolores was for scouting for chances to see whether the flood could be skipped, and yet Gertrude influence upon her in the matter of choosing her calling, however seemed to be nil. In vain did Gertrude reason with her, her arguments lacked force.

Somehow, did she know more than her, Gertrude could not talk to to her on the lone scouting question with any satisfaction to herself. Strong as her arguments were in themselves, Gertrude realized over and over again that in her presentation to her they were terribly weak, for she saw no reason in changing her purpose. In the meantime Ange Mary Stanck was attr attracting a great deal of attention in her work, as a result of which she was bringing home the "Bacon." Her efforts brought her into contact with a good section of the flood where the water was shallower, but yet she would not think of risking the raft on it. Once she was called upon to appear to the shore to look at something which the others thought was suspicious. At whatever it was passed out of sight. Mary always likec liked to invite Gertrudes to any movement or plan in which she which she thought of. This fact in connection with some remarks made by several of the other girlscout leaders upon her work, as a scout and a worker, tempted Gertrude to suspect, that taking the temper of the flood , and the scenes witnessed, Mary was working in a manner something unusual in the fashion of her earlier days, and the suspcion was confirmed, by various little changes in her dress uniform, carriage, and the way of wearing her hair. The girl was, so it appeared to Gertrude, up to something which the enemy would give anythingbto know, and Gertrude prayed that her plans would be a success. While waiting for Angeline Richeee to return from her scouting tour, Gertrude was signing the quarterly report, and pausedewith surprise over Marys.

In the first quarter the Letter E, standing for Excellent, was cre dited to all her reported efforts. In the Second M.E took the place of all , and now for the third quarter told the tale of steady rise.

"I must have a talk with that girlscout leader" Gertrude soliloquized. "She is doing something--good god what is she up to. I'll bent she is planning am an ambush for the enemy. I know she is resentful over Jeans wounds."

Then thinking of the disaster and the cowardice of the boy Jack her reflections were remourseful, and Gertrude fell to thinking of such dark episodes in their fugire future, that she was suddenly lobiged to obliged to check them as rash judgements. Many a prayer had Gertrude said

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for the success of the trip as she sigh signed Marys report.The ink was not dry on the paper wa when George brought her a note.Gertrude opened it and read;

"DEAR GERTRUDE ANGELINE.

"The night before my little sister jean was shot by an enemy sniper when she went to the rescue of Francis, and Angeline Richee on the advice of the doctor, had her removed to a covered wagon this evening.Is it asking too much of you to come over and see me to morrow.I hate to ask you, but I do so want to see you, for Jean is to be operated on to morrow, and the operation is serious.Come Gertrude if you can.

Your grateful servant,
Minerva Saunders"

From the results of the mornings conflict on the second day, and after the loss of the works, the final situation of the christian army especially under Noro, was indeed desperate and the environment of its left wing almost hopeless.This wing of troops was hemmed in near Gertrudes Creek, on a high strip of land between the flood, and the forest, the fierce Glandelinian army nearly surrounding it on all sides.General Hucbaum Mic-Whirther was in front with his Mangaboos,.Stanislaw in the e.rear, and Cannonia south and north of the creek.General Hanson urner of this wing had no other alternative other than the wholesale slaughter of his reduced army or its surrender to the Glandelinian aurthority.

The desicive morning part of the battle of Cohota for the second day had put the main christian armies on a dire retreat tvard thr junction of the two railroads and far beyond.The Glandelinian troops were pressing forward in desperate persuit, and it became a vital question which would reach the Junction first.Between Cohota , their point of starting, and their destination for the northern territory near Cainsville the distance was fully fifty three miles northwest.The roads because partly covered with flood waters were bad and the Glandelinian troops tired and worn out with two days of fighting, but nevertheless they pushed on with great determination in this race, which was destined to decide whether Myletze is able to continue his Angolinia Agathia campaign or not.

At two lo oclock, general Vivianla was at Nortens Road, while Cannonia, pushi pushing tward the Central Railroad, came upon it tward evening, whether Daniel Georges corps had followed him.Two divisions of the Glandelinian Nineteenth Corps, moving by pontoons over a flooded section of country, reached Grace's Turn on the same day two miles north. Then tward evening the armies again lay in line of battle, stretching across fifteen miles of country, and facing northward.The infantry line was formed with the Sixteenth Scoodlier Corps on the right, the fiftheenth in the Center, and other divisions consisting the left. During the late afternoon the seventh Corps of Mangaboos was transferred from the right to the left, the whole army having before three oclock pushing on for about fifteen minutes, partly resisted at every step.At this time learning that the christian Beppo Evans was moving back in the direction of Richee's Farm, the course of the Sixteenth Corps was put to a westerly direction.There fore at about four oclock in the afternoon, the engagement was considerably renewed, but the Nationals were worsted, the Glandelinians capturing many prisoners.Generals Stern, and Elwood were among the number.Simultaneously the advancing Mariens under Mic-Whirther, encountered a portion of Vivianias army at Floods"Gates" where a sharp fight took place, and Vivania was again forced to retire.He retreated in the direction of Calso'w farms but Hanson Burns forces stood ready to meet him should the occassion occur.Though the main army was safe, general Noro's left wing was hopelessly environed.In the battle h it had been recue reduced from a force of five millon, to ne of to one of twenty five hundred thousand, through its large numbers of deaths in battles, some desertions and the losses inflicted by the flood.It took no guesswork to fortell the fate of his left wing far seperated from him. Every one could see that its doom was sealed.

Meantime that night the town of Cohota had been deserted, and the Glandelinian armies marched in.The Mayor went out to meet the advancing Glandelinian general Myletze in order to surrender the city, but Myletze told him he was not going to take possession of the city but push on, and none of the inhabitants would be molested.And he kept his word.Bridges were destroyed, and one hundred thousand prisoners were taken, besides fifty five thousand woundintg wounded lying in hospitals.When it was known that general Noro's left wing was surrounded, the general in charge Frank Petersburg was ordered to surrender. surrender unconditionally.

The General knowing the results if he still resisted and that no help could readh him agreed, and the concluding scene for this portion of the army was then enacted.From the beginning of the last forward movement untill the surrender, about ten million of the christian force had been 1 killed and

wounded in battle and retreat, over twenty million prisoners had been taken, and one thousand one hundred and seventy prison apieces of artillery were captured. These two armies so long in such dreadful and deadly strife in this dram of the war were now facing each other with guns strangely nhushed. An unusual silence filled the air, and on both sides every heart was anxious in the wait for the result of the conference of the time. of surrender. When at last thevnews of the surrender flashed along the lines, deafening cheers rose and fell for more than an hour and a half over the victorious rebel army. There was an undoe triumphal display of the victors also over the conquered christian foe.And the shouts of joy which was sent up that day echoed throughout the whole Glandelinian army. Cannon boomed forth their iron peans of victory, and bonfires flamed high their attestations of the unbounded delight every everywhere shown.The day of jubilee seemed to have come, and rejoicing was the order of the hour.

For general Petersburg the last act in the dram of the war had taken place without dramatic accessory. A common old wooden barn near the outskirts of a little villiage was selected by the christian leader for the surrender, and the ceremony of that unusual act indeed was very short and unusua.ly cordial. The Glandelinian victor completed the humiliation of the brave vanquished by a great ttttttttttttt truimphal display of bands and blare of bugles and the rolll rolling of drums, and the firing of muskets in long volleys.....m

The customary usage of allowing the victorious troops to pass through the christian lines and witness their surrender was also permitted.The two great commanders also met with a scalutation that was not at all friendly or courteous. General Petersburg was attended by several of his aids.General My letze sat down at a table surrounded by his staff, andcwrote in pen and ink the terms of capitulation to which general Petersburg dictuted an agreement in writing and had it typed.

The secretary of general Myletze, and others, made copies of the agreement from the same typewriter.Then the exchange of these notes terminated the interview.It was singularly simple and severe, full of all the rhetorical florishes and ceremonies, and it gave an interest and dignity that the most greatest writers may fail to furnish in description.....

It is best that a graphic description be given as to how little jean was first known to be shot. Jennie Turmer had that evening been out scouting and when she returned, one of the boyscouts who had been on guard watching for her came quickly forward, and motioned to her to stop right away,

"I beg your pardon Miss urmer"he said saluting, as the girl brought her horse to a sudden stand"But I called at your headquarters late this afternoon on very important business.I am not sure whether you have heard it or not, but to night again a number of girlscouts have been injured in one of your companies in going out to bring back francis who was out on a foolish trip, and Jean has been wounded and deserted too.Gertrude Angeline knows all about it."

"No I didn't know it"said Jennie."id you see who deserted her.?"

"No."

"Jennie at nce went to inform Mary Stukc Stanck.

" id you hear the news of ne of our girls being wounded again?" she asked.

"No of course not"said Mary,"Not that it makes it anything unusual as that is our lot as scouts to face such dangers that I can see, and certainly it ain,t my fault."

"No of course not , but I thought you might wish avoid going near the danger zone."

"Do you think Miss Turmer, I would be afraid of the Glandelinians?"

"Not for yourself, but I thought that possibly"and Jennie looked at her neare-st followers.

"Oh I see, well you neddn't worry, I haven't any intention of visiting any od of the dirty Glandelinian encampments at present---which girlscout this time has been wounded??."

"Our little friend, Jean Saunders.."

Mary gave a violent start, and some of the color went out of her face, as she heard this.

"Jean, out little friend Jean"she repeated in a very different tone,"You don't mean Jean Saunders the little sister of Minnie."

"Yes, one other scout has been instantly killed, and two more are very badly wounded.The wounds are very bad and malignant."

"Look here Jennie" Mary leaned forward in her saddle seat, and spoke in a rather low voice"I'm afraid this is a bad business, and you say Jack deserted her.Good heavens,I never dreamed, Heavely days and Leaping Lizards what are we to do."!

Mary was looking fairly frightened, and the kind hearted girlscout Jennie, who had known Mary for years, suddenly realized that there might be a possibility of her eccentric leader possessing feelings like other girls after all, and not rendered severe as she thought by the hardships of campaigning.

"There I hope may not be any sudden cause for alarm." she said -speaking speaking cheerfully, though she too looked rather grave,"which boyscout did she attempt to bring back from the dangerous territory, do you happen to

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remember....?"

"I don't remember but she will be able to tell us. Joy--- turning and calling a girlscout private over to them"You remember at glend glen the boy scout went to last night, don't you. You went out to scout did you not?"

This girl Joy, who had halted before the two girlscout officers and who had overheard the conversation, though paying no attention to it, roused herself at this question, and the look of interest came back into her face.

"It was Francis." said s the child"Poor little reckless boy, he was in very dangerous territory, and Jean said if he wasn't coming back soon she was going out to him with an escort of well armed boys. Jean came back wounded and one of the boys was arrested by Jane Melfort for desertion. Mary Stanck, and Jennie Turmer exchanged glances.

One of the boys was wounded and he was Tommy Burns.He died this morning too"said Jennie in a voice too low for Joy to catch the words, as she was a little fiery headed girlscout.

Mary was actually white.

"What is to be done?" she asked hopelessly."

Jennie said nothing, but rode over to Joy and looked long and searchingly into Yttttttt Joys little face.

"I am Miss Jennie Turmer."she said kindly."Won't you shake hands with me?"

"Joy promptly held out her hand.

"Did you accompany those who went out to bring francis back?" she asked eagerly"And did he succeed in his attempt to blast the fire."I

"No"said Jennie."I was not with the party.But Francis is not injured,"and she scanned the little girls face with grave interest"But I'm afraid you are apprehensive about it to day are you not?"

"Yes very." Joy admitted. "He's my brother."

"Oh I see.You are not often out scouting,I suppose?"

"Oh yes I do it regularly,I never was frees from it,I always went out."

"Never idle eh.You haven't had any thrilling experiences, then or a misadventure.?"

"I did have thrilling esperiences, but I wasn't never really injured, or captured, and never had a misadventure.My sister had a bad experience once but she escaped by a narrow margin."

Jennie turmer dropped the little girls hand, and turned once more to Mary,who had been listening to the conversation with rapidly increasing anxiety.

"This child scout belongs to Miss Wenthworths command does she not.?"

Mary nodded.

"Well I scare scarcely think it would be right to let the boy jack get away, and we'll have to retain her as a witness for the trial when Gertrude holds it.Miss wenthworths girlscouts will be , hear the judges.Jean should not have been explosed to any more danger than could have been helped."

"You don't mean that there is really danger that Gertrude will sentence Jack to dea----" Mary checked herself abruptly at a sign from Jennie.Joy was wide awake now to all being said, and taking in every word that passed.

"I don't say there is rather anything wrong on that 19 line ag yet." said Jennie hastily"but I was told the boy was brought before Gertrude andthis little girl tells me every one in the camp is not feeling quiteup to the mark to day about it, and I thought that under the circumstances it might be better if she would be a witness in the trial as she says she saw the desertion, and we can soon learn what the situation really is.You know in a case like that how severe Gertrude is.""She

"he shall do anything Gertrude choses of course"said Mary with decision "You won't mind coming to Gertrudes tent, for a while will you Joy.?,he'll want to question you about the deserter."

"Oh no "said Joy"I should like it very much---but doest Jennie think, the deseter is going to face a firing squad.?"

"No, no"said jennie reassuringly"But you see the fact is, Jean has ben been wounded, a number of our scouts are sick, and Mary tells me you saw Jack deserter Jean last night and , thought it might just as well be for you to act as witness for a few days---till the Court Marshall is over, just till we are quite sure Jean is all right you know.The punishment fits her case.If she dies, hel'll die, if she survivors he'll be discharged in disgrace..Only."

Joys lip was starting to quiver, and indeed she had to make a great effort to keep back the boy babyish tears.

"I don't know what to do." she said in a tremulious voice."I shouldn't like to see any onf our boys shot.but if he did desert poor Jean Gertrude would be so vexed, and perhaps if she let the boy go unpunished it might make our scouts leave her ranks to go to ow some body else--and ---and that would be dreadful."

A big tear splashed down on poorbJoys cheek, but before she could wipe it away or even realize what was happening to her, she felt suddenly a strong arm around her, and Mey herself was saying in a tone that very few people had ever heard in her severe sharp voice befoe before-

"Don't cry about it Joy dear.It's all right, and every ne will be kind to poor jean."

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Now it was Joy never exactly understood not till t her last day, but at the sound of that kind voice, all her fears suddenly melted away, and with a little sigh of relief and con content, she murmured softly;;

"Thank you so much ,ins gtanck you are always so very kind, and I'd rather do anything you ask me to. But how long will jean be ill from her wounds?"

"That depends "said Mary"Sometimes only a little while, but the surest way for her to get well is to not worry about things. And every one says she does not far anything."

Joy stifled a sigh.

"I do hope she does get well as I don't like to see that foolish cowardly boy pay the death penalty.." she said."but if he should do you think it would be deserving."

"Well I don't know about that." said Mary as they rode on,"But the trial will be going on before long, and in the meantime you'll just stay in my tent till Gertrude calls for you, and we'll have such nice times together." I love to have littegirls for company, and it'll seem just like old times to have some one with me."

"Did Jean who was shot last night by Glandelinian snipers ever been wounded before.?"Asked Joy.

"Yes indeed, she had been, and pretty badly too, and I myself nursed her through her sickness brought on by her wounds in her own tent."

"In her own tent." repeated Joy looking more interested, than she had ever looked before that day,"why how and why did she remain in her tent."

Mary flushed, and looked a little embrassed.

"Well yes she did Joy"she said rather reluctantly"Though I forgot and didn't mean to tell you.You won't saying say anything to any of the other girlscouts and our officers about it ,will you?"

"Not if you do not like me to, but why does they not like to hear it?" litt"Because, dear por little Jean I then took care of, was and is winnies little sister, and when she came bear near dying I think it almost broke every ones heart.It make it might make them unhappy to be reminded of those days."

Joy looked a little troubled.

"Do you think Gertrude would like to have me be a witness then to her being deserted?" she questioned anxiously."Perhaps I'd do a good service them?"

"Yes she would need you"said Mary with decision,"I know that for after Jack was led away under guard, Gertrudes very first words to me were"Are there any witnesses to his deserting her besides francis?If so I should like you to prepare him or her for the trial.Two witnesses are needed you know."

Joy smiled contentedly.

"I'm glad"she a said,"I think Gertrude must really love poor little Jean, if she feels so bad about her fate."

There was a short pause, whewhile Mary went quietly on with her arrangements, then joy spoke again..

"You don't remember just what hour Jean was shot by the enemy, I sup ose suppose.?"

"Well no I do not exactly---it was however long before dark, last night."

"Many of ar other injured were not ill very long"said joy with a sudden hopeful recollection,"It was only two or three days that they had been shot- and the doctor says they will recover inntimes-that is s just what he said.I do hope poor jean will be well by next week.Every ons would be so dreadfully sic sick with sorrow if she should die, and poor jack will face the firing squad for desertion .Oh I don't want to see every one of us become unhappy, over this misadventure, and to see Jean die, and Jack, Jack-----"" joys sentence ended in a sob.

"Now my dear little girl"said Mary cheerfully,"taking one of joys little hand in here--This won't do at all.If you fret over it, you'll be sure to make yourself sick also.You must try to be brave, do all Gertrude advises you concerning your taking the witness stand, and everythings going to come out all right I know.Why she may not even get very sick at all, and her wounds may not be severe at all.We haven't heard the doctors verdict yet. would it make you happier if your brother Franciscould take the witness stand with you."?

"Oh,yes,yes, indeed ." cried joy rapturiously,"That is she added with a sudden recollection,"If you are quite sure he knows what he can tell.He had been onthe witness stand for the Vivian Girls once, but he was shot at and that would be dreadful."

"I don't think there would be the least danger in this case." said Mary promptly"Though of course we could ask Miss Richee or Angeline Jennings. Now I'll tell you what we'll do. Maud Angeline one of ar lieutenants has gone to Gracedelinia to let her know what has happened and where Jean is.Just as soonas she comes back, we'll ask her what she thinks of our sending a little note to your brother, telling him of your being choosen as a witness against jack Galler, and asking him if he wouldn't like to come to you and take the witness stand with you.Then if it turns out at the trial that Jack won't be punished severely for his desertion of por Jean, why everything will be just the same as before.Wouldn't you like that....?????""

"I should like it better than anything else in the world." said Joy.Then she sat about helping Mary clean the tent.

When next little Jean woke to full convciousness, she was aware of the fact

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that Gracedelinia was not the only person in her tent.Boyand girls were speaking in low subdued voices, and she was sure she recognized the tone of Dolores, her sister Angeline, and many other officers, and also those of the Girlscout regimental doctor pocotr Doctor Jones. She made an effort to leift lift her bandaged head, but it felt so dizzy and heavy she was glad to let it sink back on the pillow again, and a terrb terrible pain shot through her head.Next moment Dolores was bending over her, holding something to her lips.

"Swallow this Jean dear," she said kindly"It's only some medicine to make you sleep, the doctor wants you to take it."

Jean promptly sa swallowed the contens contents of the sppon spoon,.Then she whispered eagerly;

"Did any ne notify my sister Min, that I was shot?"

"Yes indeed." said Gracedelinia coming forward, and answering for herself, "It is all right, and she's coming as soon as the note reaches her."

With a sudden movement, Jean put out her hand.

"Oh thank you so much"she murmured."I think I'd ike to kiss you Grace."

Gracedelinia, bent down her head close to Jeans, and as the wounded child, kissed her, she heard her whisper ina tone so low that no one else in the room could hear."Pray to God to let you recover, or it's all up with Jack."

At the time Jean had been brought into campt camp Minnie had been busy studying out a code with the help of Mildred Maxwell.The code was very hard but interesting, and more than once pretty Mildred, had called jane to her and the three of them were making very rapid progress with the work, as the three girls continued the task patiently, Minnie solacing herself every once ina while by the a glance at the surging waters.Thf was evening, and on the morrow the trip was to be resumed.The day trip on the flood beforevhad been a very hot toilsome one, and poor minnie was very tired.The past two days had been especially trying, for she had been long from home and there had been no bright little face of even poor jean to make the tent of her own look homelike--jo jean to gladden the long hot evenings with merry chatter and loving caresses as she had been kept busy at another portion of the raft or camp.The trip if exciting haf been a great comfort,it is true, and she had spent many an otherwise lonely hour in making bright plans for the near future but even the prospect of possible success in adventure, cannot make up for everything, and poor Minnie had been very lonesome.But it was almost over now, Jean was to be released from duty for several days, therefore what did it matter if the journey was tiresome and the weather hot--that the work was dull and perilous---even that many of the leaders were more fretful and harder to please than usual, hat did anything in the world matter, when she remembered that on the coming of the morh ing morning, she would feel the touch of jeans soft arms around her neck, and hear her dear voice saying"Are you not glad I'm back with you Minnie?"

"There was the sound of a horse stopping outside, and Mildred started up from her work.

"Who in the world can that be?"she remarked."No one comes to bother th us at this time.I'm forbidding it."

"Perhaps its those papers you sent for" Jane suggested looking up from the code."

"Perhaps and if so,I want to see if they are any good.Go and see Fred, and let the messenger go untill I have looked at them."

The aide de camp left the tent, and Minnie and Mildred went on with the code. In a very short time Fred returned.

"It's a boyscout officer to see you Miss Saunders."

"To see me Fred?Are you not mistaken.Did he give you hisname?"

For answer the boyscout handed Minnie the messengers pass.Minnie glanced at it, and turned a little pale.

"Who is it?" Mildred inquired sharply...

"A boyscout sent by Gertrude.I'm afraid something is wrong.It's about my sister Jean."

"Nonsense, why should there be anything wrong.?Gertrude only wants your little sister to make a lonier longer xservice that's all."

Minnie said nothing, but hurriedly left the tent, and in another moment she was outside.A boyscout of fourteen years of age was standing impatientyl by his horse, and as she came out, he turned and came quickly forward.

"Miss Saunders I believe."

Although she ad often seen him in the camp, this was the first time that Minnie had ever spoken to Angeline Jinnings brother. Frank Jennings.

"Yes "she said in a rather frightened voice. Then raising her eyes to Franks eyes, and clasping her hands together as if she was nervious, she added in a different tone"Jean, my little sister- she is sick---you have come to tell me?"

"No she has been shot."

"Shot.?"

"Yes, and deserted"the last with a sneer.

"Shot oh my God, and deserted--oh---"

"Now my dear Miss Saunders"said the boyscout kindly, and he took the girls hand as he spoke,"So far there's nothing to be alarmed about.Your little sister had been wounded in the head, and under her arm, and on her leg, but we hope- indeed we sincerely hope and pray to Our blessed Lord, that there may not be any cause for serious anxiety.The deserter has been arrested, and is awaiting trsa trial.Won't you sit down on this tree stump and let me tell you all about it."

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Three minutes later Minnie, was again withih i within the tent. she was very pale, and her lips were trembling, but nevertheless she made a great effort to speak bravely and cheerfully.

"Mildred "she said,"I must go to the other part of our camp at once, My little sister has been shot in trying to bring back Francis. F A boyscout has come to take me to her---Jean wants me. A boy scout called jack deserted her after the Glandelinians shot her down."

"Jean Shot"gasped Mildred."We must both go to her. Mildred never knew Jane Melfort till now.This girl usually did s ill be full of fretfulness and fussed a good deal, and her complaints had been frequent, she had been a little more prim to those under her, and harsher so,atimes with Mildred, but this was now all forgotten, and she felt the news badly, and spoke cheerfully and most encouragingly to Minnie, during the few brief moments that Minnie was putting onnher hat.

"Now my dear Miss Saunders, don't go worrying too much untill you see the true state of things,"were her parting words, as she held Minnies hand for a moment.An."And you too Mildred, don't let your worries over your dear friend Jean get the best of you, and remember not on all cases are wounds always dangerous, but usually interesting and a novel experience. We have most of us been shot, I fancy, I know I was at Delight's junction and badly too, and yet I lived to tell the tale..There, there run along both of you girls, I won't keep you.I'll find out about the desertion, which if it is true, I'll have him before Gertrude in a jiffy." (She did as already stated)

Minnie's and Mildreds horses were immediately called for.Every girl and boy scout hearing the news were very sorry for Minnie and Mildred, and every bo one spoke cheerfully and very encouragingly, recalling all those who had been frequently wound in thrilling adventures, in which no matter what wounds they may have been had recovered rapidly, and some had indeed been scarcely ill enough to be kept in bed.

But though Minnie was very grateful for the kindly meant assurances, that she need not worry too much, and though she did her best to smile and appear cheerful, her heart was very heavy, and she was conscious of coming trouble, that Jeans injuries may be serious, even dangerous, and this made her very faint, and cold with apprehension. The boyscout escort was very kind, how kind the two girlscout leaders did not realize till long afterwards. He had given up an important meeting with his boys, in order that m he might come and take her himself to Jeans tent. nd he was very thoughtful for her comfort during the the short journey, and dh did his best to entertain her, and divert her thoughts.But he himself was not very happy.He secretly had grown very fond of Jean during the few weeks that she had been in the camp, and he had a little talk with the Regimental Doctor, when he had inquired about jean, and the doctors words ere were anything but encouraging. He knew for facts if Jean dies, so does Jack for deserting her in time of danger.

He knew Gertrude, and how eccentric she is on military affairs..At last the beached raft was reached,, and Minnie and even Mildred with wildly beating hearts followed him. both were trembling so that they found it difficult to dismount from their horses.

"The tent is in the center of the raft." said the boy.

Minnie gave a little start.

"In the center of the tent"said Mildred "Good."

"Where is Jack the deserter"?Asked Minnie.

" A prisoner under guard."

"A prisoner under guard."she repeated,"Why I thought he was gone, escaped, that he never returned after deserting her."

"No you do not understand what I told you.When it was discovered that he was running away , her other escorts persued him hotly, and overtook him dragging him from his horse.They did not let him get away.I was sorry to have heard he deserted a girl friend in danger, but under the circumstances, I felt that I could could scarcely object hinchbeing taken."

"No indeed" said Mildred herself bitterly,"It would be terrible though for him if jean dies, for if Gertrude did not punish him, she'd have no control over the rest if they grab him and linch him, being a foriegner.All the others too have and are crazy over Jean, she has often spoken of every one."

"Gertrude in military affairs is very eccentric"said the boy smiling,"But she too has taken a wonderful fancy to Jean.I never saw a girlscout more utterly crushed and distressed, than she was when she rode up to my tent this evening to tell me about poor Jean. ou know it was while out scouting they came upon Francis who was single handed fighting a forest fire coming our way, wh. was the first to get the sad news.. Francis Anges tells me, she had been out to bring Francis back from the enemys territory, but no one else knew anything about it."

"No Jean never complains" she said Minnie sadly.

"Oh Dear God hope poor Jean escpes th escapes the effects of her wounds." said Mildred. "She must have been badly exposed to the Glandelinians if she was wounded.Were any one else shot with her."

"Yes.A boy was killed, and three mortally wounded."

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A shade of anxiety crossed Mildreds face, but she tried to speak cheerfully.
"poctor ,ones does not seem to think there is very much danger, as the bulle bullets only struck her a glancing blow, when she was fired upon by the enemy. He has treated the other wounded as quickly as possible to save their lives, and and of course every one will be praying that jean will be entirely well/"
"I can't fe help feeling a little uncomfortable at the idea of her tent being isolated on the raft." said ,innie coloring"If the flood rises more it might sweep the raft off and then where will she be."!
"I reallly don't think you need worry on that score, Miss Saunders!f Jean were gertrudes own little sister she could scarcely be more devoted to her than she is now."
Minnie said no more, and ina few minutes they were going upon the raft.
"What a beautiful tent."exclaimed ,innie,struck by the beauty of the surro8nd surroundings in spite of her anxiety and suspense.....
"Yes, and this flood is quite the show place of the whole neighborhood.I believe misfortune was borne here.It seems rather a pity though that such thin things should have to happen.Here we are Miss saunders, you will excuse me if I don't go in with you.Dr ,octor Brown thinks it would be more prudent for me to keep away for the present.Ah here comes the Nurse, a girlscout nur nurse ,she will be able to give you all the latest news."
The nurse Mary ,lorinia who had been watching for them, came hurr6ing over across the raft to meet ,innie, and in another moment the elder girl found both her hands taken in a warm friendly grasp, while a kind childish voice said;
"It's all right my dear,she's doing just as well as we can expect, the doctor says, and she has been asking for you all evening."
Minnie gave a little gasp of relief, squeezed the little Red ,ross child nurse by the hand, and then turned to say good bye to the boy, Mildred having already gone into the tent.
"I don't know how to thank you"was all the girl said, but the looks that accompanied the words said a great deal more, and the boy scout rode away quite satisfied.,lorinia led the way into the tent.Minnie wondered a little where ,ertrude must be, but did not like to ask, having thought she would be there since Jean was hurt.
"No you must take off your hat, and freshen freshen up a little bit before I take tyou in to see your little sister." said the girlscout nurse cheerfully. "Here is a glass of milk and some crackers---I thought you might be a little hungry, after your journey."
On account of her worry over ittle jean Minnie was not at all hungry, and she could not even force herself to eat.
"Jean has told me all about you girlscoutd, and how kind you all are to her." she said trying to smile"as Mary took away the milk, and the crackers. "I think my little sister has found some very good friends in this Regiment. ,specially Certrude is her friend."
"Good friends." repeated the girl nurse"Oh my dear Miss saunders, you have no idea——"She broke off, abruptly and then the tears started to her eyes.
The sight of the tears started poor ,innie into fresh anxiety.
"Oh please, please, tell me the truth," she cried nervously, springing to her feet"You are keeping something from me, I know you are. jean, poor Jean is mortally wounded, she is much worse than you want me to know....."
",o,no,no,no my dear." said the little child nurse soothingly"You musn't be so frightened.she's pretty badly wounded,I won't deny that, but people generally are from wounds you know.The doctor says she'll be operated on to morrow, and I told him I could act as a trained nurse, as I could do everything mu myself as not.There isn't much I do not know about wounds I can tell you. Didn't I nurse Princess Jennie through illness, when she was not near as old as this one, and didn't the doctor tell me it wascone of the worst wounded cases he'd ever seen in war.?"
"Princess Vivian Jennie ,ivian!" repeated Minnie, she thought she must have misunderstand.
Mary Evangelinia Glorinia reddened, and looked as if she had forgotten herself and said something she had not meant to even speak of.
"Did I say Princess Jennie?,hatever was I thinking of.It was Emperor ,ivians daughter I meant.I was appointed to be her nurse, you see, nursed her untill she recovered."
"I didn't know the Vivian Girl Princesses ever were wounded." said ,innie"Is she dead?"
"No dear she is not, she survived.,he and her sisters have been wounded many times, but little jean is almost the breathing imagine of one of them known as Angeline.That is why the child scout seems to Certrude and to me just as if she were one of them."
"Can't I go to Jean now please?" Minnie asked impatiently..
"Yes of course it's only in the tent.I thought you would like to be in there with her.You musn't be frightened if she should seem to be in a stupor, the fever effect of her wounds if pretty high now, but that doesn't ammount to anything."
As they entered the tent,,, Minnie suddenly caught sight of a girlscout with tightly braided hair, somewhat tall for her age., standing rigid, and motionless in the front of the tent.

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"Is that Angeline Jennings?" she asked Mary in a whisper.
The little nurse nodded, and at that moment the girl turned, and for the first time the girl found herself confronted by this tall handsome but apparently haughty girlscout whom she knew must be no other than one of the kind friends about whom Jean had had so much to say.With a sudden impulse, she went up to her and held out her hand,
"you are very kind to let me come." she said in a low sweet voice, which caused the girl to start and wince slightly" jean has told me a great deal about you, and ——and I want to thank you for all your kindness to my little sister."
Angeline Jennings did not speak, but she took the outstretched hand, and held it for a moment in a warm firm grasp, while a wave of some painful emotion swept over her face.
"I hope we can be very good friends."Minnie went on blushing, for she was beginning to find the girls silence somewhat disconcerting.I've "Even Certrude had told me how good you have been, but the deserter Jack---"
"Never let me hear you mention that cowards name again."
"The exclamenation was so unexpected, and the girls voice so harsh and sharp, that ,innie started and involuntarily drew back a step or two.
"Don't you know"The girlscout leader went on fiercely."Haven't they told you it was all my fault.I let the girlscouts with her go into the territory where those mir miserable cats in gray were lurking.I ought to have suspected that there was something wrong, from what some of my officers said,but I never did.A proper le person to be the leader of a number of girl scouts you will say."
And there was no doubt that Angeline was suffering keen remorse, and Minnie's heart was touched.
"You must not blame yourself." she said earnestly, raising the blue eyes that were so like Jeans to her face,"It wasn't your fault, it could have been you too in that fix you know, no one knows what Glandelinians will be doing."
A softened expression crept over the hard stern face of Angeline Jennings.
"No"said she huskily,"I wasn't---God help me" I wasn't." and then she turned, and without another word, walked quickly away. Mary led the way into the tent, and Minnie followed her in.In the dim light Minnie could make out the various bottles and glasses and bandage rolls on the table, another girlscout in the uniform of a nurse, and on the cot ,could that be Jean, that little m motionless figure, with bandaged head, and arm, closed eyes, and crimsoned cheeks.?Dear bright brave little jean, whose quick ear had never before failed to catch the sound of her sisters step--and whose face had never failed to brighten with a glad welcoming smile?Indeed inspite of all her eff efforts at self control, Minnies knees were shaking so she could scarcely stand.The nurses threw protecting arms about her.
"Is she asleep"faltered the elder sister, with trembling lips.
"She is unconscious, but you musn't be fr frightened its only the results of the wounds, she didn't come to yet since she was brought in."
"May I kiss her?"
For answer one of the girl nurses bent over the little figure on the cot and softly touched th burning forehead.
"Some ne has come to see you Jean." she said in a kind pleasant voice-"Guess who it is."
The childs head moved on the pillow restlessly, and jean uttered a faint moan, but that was all."
"You better speak to her yourself"the girls whispered moving aside to make room for the new comi comer.Next moment poor ,innie was on her knees beside the bed,and the two little burning hands in hers.
"Jean, Jean, darling, don't you know me?It is your sister ,innie."
It seemed as if the very sound of the voice she loved so well had alone the power to rouse her, as no other sound could have done, for jean moved again, and opened her eyes."
",innie"she murmured softly"Minnie dear, I'm so glad you've come ,I shall be all right soon."and then she nestled her hot cheek against her sisters hand and fell asleep.A little later Minnie had sent that e message to Certrude Angeline.

It was Mary Evangelinia Glorinia herself,,,, who acted as nurse and who was as was also a head leader of girlscouts, who conduxted Certrude Angeline to the tent, where ,innie was, and where lay Jean, very red and with lines of sufferi suffering on her face. The operation the nurse explc explained to Certrude which was going to be performed on the morrow, was a most serious ones, but she said that the doctor claimed that Jeans physical condition nevertheless was so good that there was every hope of her coming out of it successfully. Certrude t entered the tent.On seeing her, Minnie's face showed unmistakable signs of worry in dead.How often does sudden sickness and so forth bring friends still closer together.In illness and worry many hearts are revealed.
"Oh Miss Aronburg"and her hands came together, and then were flung out tward her"This is so kind of you to come."
"How is your little sister feeling, Minnie?" Certrude asked, catching her

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two hands in hers.

"She is still unconscious, but I feel better myself, now that you are here. Since she had been shot I have so wanted to talk to you Gertrude."

"If you'll exkuse excuse me Miss Aronburg, I will leave youwith your friend" said the two girlscout nurses."I know she wants to open her heart to you."

"Gertrude"said Minnie as the two withdrew"I've been thinking hard for the past two hours.There was an awful fight going on in me.All along down deep in my heart I felt that something was wrong.That Jack has been ungrateful to you and all of us.It hurt me so when he deserted poor jean when in peril."

"And it hurt me too, Minnie.It was only some hours after I rebuked him that I saw Jeans flowers on my desk."

"You never told me that Gertrude."

"No I suppose not, as usual in that whole affair I bungled everything.But when I saw them, I understood at once that jean had spent all her efforts in an endeavor to show her friendship and grattitude to me.I went out for you at once, only to learn that you was not then in camp. I don't know what to do with Jack.I suppose if jean dies, he'll have to face the penq penalty.You know in our military no deserter is safe from death no matter what age.That's the rule of our Government, abd and I can't do anything.I'm powerless to save him unless Jean lives."

"But gertrude, he is a coward, a deserter, he deserves that penalty."

"Perhaps he does indeed, Minnie, in fact I feel sure he does.His method was wrong. and he is an englishman or boy.Yet I hate to do it."

"But he deserves the severe ps punishment.You know what Violet and her sisters would do in that case.They would hustle him before a firing squad in short order. I learned of the whole thing through Francis.When the boy went at to scout on the enemy, poor Jean undertook to follow him to safe guard him as she knew the country more than he did.Still though she really didn't think it saf was safe to go out too far, still she felt it was dangerous more for him.no one should have approved of it, should not let her go.There was a lot of peril everywhere to night, and when some of the others heard of her going out, they were almost crazy with fear, and Jack and a number of well armed boys were sent out to bring her back.So they went out forgo g forgetting the danger to themselves, excepting Jack whom the boys say was shaky.When they came to the woods, no one knew what was lurking there George one of the boys say his heart sunk, for the enemy appeared in force.There were three or four girls with us, and they started to retreat as the Glandelinians started to charge forward. As the enemy fired upon us Gladys uttered a loud shrill scream, as she saw Jean drop from her horse and Georges heart seemed to stand still.Then the rest of them opened a witer withering fire upon the Glandelinians with telling effect, but the excitement they saw say was too much for Jack Hans or whatever his name is, for with a terrific shriek, he threw his rifle away, and urged his horse forward and next minute the horse was flying at full speed in the direction of the main woods, leaving Jean lying there bleeding, and the an amazement girls and boys to what ever fate might be in store for them.For that moment when they found themselves deserted, they all remained stock still panting for breath, and scarcely realiz ing what had happened. Then Gladys, James, and Frank, and two others departed from the rest and set off in hot persuit and after a minute or two caught up from him, dragged him from his horse, and with the rest following brought him a prisoner into campe camp and threw him down before Jane Melfort who brought him a prisoner to you."

"I understood mst of this Minnie.Knowing Gladys as I did I could always take take it for granted that y no one escapes her.It's too bad poor jean had to take part in this adventure, and maybe she would not had she realized what would would happen.What army did the soldiers belong to , surely not Mylstzes."?

"I don't think so.They looked like Glandelinians belonging to the traitor Germania vivian."

"Oh "said gertrude smiling sneeringly."I'll get them."

"Oh"said minnie in turn"you thought they were other Glandelinians.Well Jack sure deserves a severe punishment, that would make an example of all the cowards.You should have lashed him."

"I should have but did not think of it, for a whipping would have done him more good, but I myself would rather have had a hundred whippings than see Jean like this.Well Minnie I can promise you this,I'll decide the case at the trial accordingly to what happens to Jean.I have done that before with other deserters, and spies.He shall be punished accordingly."

"Gertrude if poor Jean should die-----"

"She'll not die I hope.I'll pray for her."

"If she should die, what will Jack be ."

"A cushion for bullets.IT'll have to be.I cannot get out of it.I'd be punished myself.The law is hard on those persons you know."

"Do you remember Jean and Angeline Pichee."?

There was a sob in the girls voice, she was thinking of the blessed days, the days that were no more".

"I do remember perfectly my dear.And I was very much touched that Jean and Angeline Pichee who were so near and dear to Our Lord should think so much of me."

"Gertrude if Jean dies can you ever forget her."

"Don't worry ,Jean won't die----but dead or alive I shall always remember her.

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"I was talking a moment ago about that coward deserving the death penalty, Gertrude, that thought came to me just when I learned of his desertion.I was before this happened reading a war story.There was a description there of a man deserter recieving the death penalty for even less than that boy did.Do you know Gertrude I'm not much of a critic, but to me that seemed to be a great passage.You don't find things like that in ordinary books."

",Minnie" Gertrude exclaimed,"I believe you are a critic.You have picked at picked at what in my estimation is a great passage indeed."

"Well I read it and re-read it.And the more I read it the more it seemed to have a message for me."

"A forewarning you mean?"

"Yes, Gertrude, and that set me to thinking that Jack deserved a severe punish punishment.This cross makes me believe however that God wants to chastise me in His love, and for our Cause h He would chastise me, and that if I wished to see our Country win I would need His chastening rod. I began to suspect its coming, I felt that it was near.It came and Jean is laid low here. I had began to feel little apprehensions, and I became afraid.Then to night or this evening God chastined me.I'm afraid it's going to be an awful trying night for me, and they say before she became unconscious it was for her an hour of awful pain, and through it all now I can never get away from the feeling that God, just because He is a loving Father, had chastened me.I am brave to bear it but I started a Novena asking Him to spare her to me.Her pain was terrible so they tell me, but I knew that God was showing both of us His love.I thought thought for a while when I heard the news she was fatally wounded.Before you came all the other girlscouts leaders were around her cot, rubbing her hands and feet, and doing all sorts of things.They thought I was going to faint but I did not.I never was so conscious in all my life.I saw the sacrifices of the this country in the war, and all the ugliness of it.I saw how wrong I had been been in thinking so little of your advice of keeping Jean in camp, I saw how it is so dangerous, and now I'm paying for it, and now I made a good act of con trition to God, who seemed to be nearer to me than I was to Jean or myself, ,and I told Him that if Jean ever lived, I should do more for His Cause. My apprehension grew greater then ever after my act of contrition, but I felt the Love of God wrapping me around and I pruyed.It was that love of His which ha had sa has saved us all from going to destruction.I often saw how near we had been to the greatest perils, and how God had guided us through saftly without our knowing it away from dangerous places."

"Wonderful" Gertrude exclaimed taken a no less by the girls marvellous man- ifestation than by her power of expression.God knows how to do things."

"And now Gertrude, I am going to remain up with her all night, and will never cease to pray.It's hard to bear it, but if God wants Jean I must be re- signed to His will.But Gertrude if jean does go will Jack really face the firing squad.?"

"CERTAINLY minnie."

"And for his cowardice and ingrattitude to us?"

"Don't speak more of that please.I can't bear it.Jean is the same to us now as she always were.I cannot do anything in any way to save him.If she dies. The whole force will linch him."

"I don't like to think of it but if it can't be helped it can't be helped. And if she gets well what then will happen to him."?

"He shall be retained as a prisoner, and recieve a disgraceful and dis onerable discharge as soon as we reach the lines,under Emperor Vivian."

"Thank you so much Gertrude."

Then Gertrude said a prayer for Jean, and left her pain racked of body, and gave an offering asking every Girlscout Regimental Priest she had in the camp to say Mass for Jean on the morrow.There were many, many dear friends friends who indeed held a warm place in her heart, but as Jean lay wounded the memory of them was now faint.The patient brave little girl, lying wounded facing death of her injuries, and whom only the operation can decide, now unconscious, and her sister so sad yet resigned, ready to cheerfully allow her little sister to go under the knife, ready to recieve right willingly life or death of her little sister as God should choose---she and Jean alone stood out clear in the presence of Christ upon the Altars and of all the surrounding angels adoring at the Holy Sacrifice, as the one to whom whom Gertrude was to have the priest to direct all the mighty impetratory forces of the unbloody Sacrifices on the early morrow.

Before taps she had Jack brought before him and said;

"For your a desertion, your life depends upon ho how jean turns out. If she dies, you'll face the firing squad a few minutes after. You had better join in the prayers of the whole camp for her life and your salvation.I'm merciless on deserters and traitors."

And he was led back to his "pen".

Chicago, Ill.

CHAPTER FIVE
THE FIGHT FOR A LITLE LIFE.
VICTORY. PIO PROMISING RESULTS FOR THE GIRLSCOUT REGIMENT. THE TRIAL.

" MISS MELLFORT!"!"!#!"!"

"Yes Angeline."

"Do you really think at this very early time of morning it is necessary to take your force of girlscouts out scouting, when we don't know what is in the woods beyond."!

"It isn't my fault someboys got to do it.I ask a few boys to do so and they said they didn't like to take the chance."

"Seems to me I would c go out scouting then, till you can take some of the cavarly escort with you.I don't dont think Gertrude nor Mildred will be very pleased when they learn you have gone out scouting. you know what happened to Joan."

Jane gave a impationt sigh, and sent the orderly for her horse,

"I haven't got anything else to do but scout." she said."It's got to be done. No one knows what theyGlandelinians may do.They'met set upon us."

"A nice way for a little girlscout leader who has so many things to do other wise to talk.I told you I would take you to some other place for a while if you wanted to go...."

"I don't want to ,there's no particular ones to go out with, and its no fun to go out riding anywhere else all by yourself."

"I'm sure I'm not anxious to go myself, I only suggested it because I thought it might amuse you."

There was a short pause. Jane walked up and down for several minutes and then she asked a question.

"Angeline, how many hours is it since poor Joan was shot?"

"It'll be thirteen hours at seven oclock, and its now only six."

"Yes that'll be thirteen hours won't it.I heard doctor Jones tell Gertrude Angeline, that if any more of us would go out, we should all be in danger of sharing her fate."

"Yes if any more of u go scouting now in small numbers it will be all up with us, and we hoped you have escaped often.You know how reckless you were. You ought to be very thankful."

"I'm not"said Jane a little defiantly."I'm no better than Joan, and if she was shot why shouldn't I too.I wish I had caught the bullets instead of Jean. She's good and doesn't deserve it, the dirty Glandelinian skunks."

"I don't blame you, for your sympathy for poor Jane"said Angeline Richoe. "EVERY ONE FEELS SORRY IT HAPPENED.".

"And if she dies, I should like to get a shot in at some chief Glandelinian general and put him into the hot region where he belongs."

"Miss Mellfort." Angeline showed her horror and disapproval.

"I do wish I had the chance now." Jane went on, rather pleased than otherwise otherwise by the sight of Angelines shocked face"I think it would be very interesting news for our national papers to have every one see that a girlscout ended a career of a glandelinian general, because one of the best girlscouts was too shot.The glandelinians don't worry a darn about us girlscouts and other children so why should we give an eye wink for them."

"You don't know what you are talking about." said Angeline Richoee scornfull scornfully, as she started cleaning her horse.

Now indeed Jane was a little aroused by Angeline speaking in that tone. She was really very unhappy about poor Jean, who she knew was badly injured and very ill from her wounds, more unhappy than any ne, least of all Angeline suspected. so unhappy she was that that caused her to speak that way, but never theless it was not just idle talk, she meant it, for every day, she had a growing fury against the Glandelinians for the method of their way of carrying t on the war, and to Angeline her conduct appeared a little short of h artless to the enemy, for Jane even unfortunate for herself was one of those high siprited, dignified and proud proud sensitive children, who find it an impossibility to express her deepest feelings over all this.

"I don't care what the consequenves would be"she began again, after a moments moments pause,"I do wish I had many a chance to have shot one of the Manleys then something would change, and I would not only be very important, but wOu would have avenged what the Glandelinians did to many children even before now."

"And how about the results of shooting general Manley or his sons?" Angeline inquired dryly."I suppose that would be very pleasant too."?

"What do you mean results."?

"If the Glandelinians ever captured you..."

Jane thought of this for a moment, and other disagreeable consequences that may follow, but she hesitated only for a moment.

"I don't believe I would let them capture me." she said"Not as long as I have my trusty weapons with me and a good horse.Don't look so dreadfully solemn Angeline I'm not fooling.I know the way Violet, and her sisters do it ,I've read often what great rewards is offered for their destruction, and they are not even injured yet."

"Miss Mellfort you are without the slightest exception, the most reckless de dare devil child scout I've ever seen in my life." exclaimed Angeline.

"How is that?"

"How is that?why you should know yourself.You have been in arguments with Mildred very often over it.You ought to have seen Gertrude Angeline, when Violet, and her sisters, her own superiors even when they wanted to do some thing that was going to be a rush and fol foolish adventure.It was pitiful to see her, she was that arguing and heart broken, n and distressed, she couldn't take an interest in anything, and when they went in spite of her advices and persuading and was gone for over two weeks, she had ovenas and Litnajies and Masses offered for their safe return, asking God and His Blessed Mother to make them come back again, and when the prayers were not answered, Gertrude took a party of girlscouts, and a squadron of Abyssinkillian cavarly and scou scoured the whole country untill she found them, still in the enemys camp remaining patiently because they had noy yet accomplished their purpose. In order then that she could get them to come out, she tried the work herself and succeeded.Then she and they returned to co camp saftly, but it was w one of the most hae hazardous undertakings they had ever experienced."

"Perhaps for a moment Angeline had then stopped to think, and realize the fact that none of the girlscouts nor the men escort either had taken any interest in things either during the time Jane Jean was shot, and therefore she felt she knew why Je Jane had wanted to go out scouting at a critical time. Jane wanted to do something to get even with the enemy for shooting Jean.

"I hate to hear about what happens to the Vivian Girls, this, and that." said Jane."Iknow more about them, and their experiences even than you do Angeline, having been with them always since I left just now during these past weeks.I don't see why they do it. nd just think of how often they have been deserted by foriegner boyscouts because they did not like the Vivian Girl girls, being boys who like they are in their own countries, have no use for girls because they are girls.They're nasty stuck up little prigs anyway. Emperor Vivian said so. nd they were caught and got it good too."

"How many foriegn boys deserted them?"

"As many as they would have.I told Gertrude once what you said about those foriegners, and then I asked her if she din't think they were nasty stuck up little prigs, and she laughed, and said she was rather glad she didn't know boys who think so less of girls.Girls are respected by boys in our country so there. And she told foriegn boys so too, and that they better look out for our own kind."

Angeline looked offended, for she had not thought foriegn boys were like that, but she smiled and said;

"Maybe they hate girls when they are little boys I suppose, but when they gt grow up to be men they can't get along without them.I know them, the scamps.Hate girls when little because they are girls, and want to mayyr marry them when they grow up.They don't deserve a mate."

Before Jane could say any more, a girlscout riding up and looking unusually grave and solemn stopped and said;!!

"Francis has just come back from Jeans tent.Gertrude had said he was to go over at five oclock this morning i to inquire about her condition.They say she's much worse, and if the operation is not successful they are afraid she may not last through the following night."

Angeline Richee uttered an exclamanation of dismay, and the tearsss started to her eyes.It was quite true as Jane had said, Angeline was more fond of Jean than any one else... Jane said nothing, but her heart seemed to suddenly give one great frightened bound, and then to sink down down, like a lump of lead.Jean was worse,--if the operation is not successful Jean might not last another nineteen hours----what did that mean? she had never dreamed, never had thought for the slightest moment that her little friend, was not going to recover from the wounds. The other girlscout lingered for a moment, and she and Angelina talked in low voices about the sand sad event which might take place before midnight.however it seemed that Jane did not pay much attention to what the two other girls were saying she was too busy fighting down the big lump in her throat, and winking most desperately to keep back the tears that she did not want any one to see. At last the girlscout speaking to Angeline rode away, and Angeline mounted her horse.

"I'm going to see the doctor." she said in a rather chk chocked voice" "I haven't the heart to stay out like this any longer.Something must be done.I should think you'd like to come too, but I suppose you're going away to c scout."

Jane could not help wondering why she heard such news, but she said nothing, and Angeline rode swiftly away, and now that she was left alone and there was no one to see her Jane was not ashamed to let the tears have their way. she cried bitterly for five minute or smore, and then she drieddd drind her eyes, and for several minutes tried to cheer herself with the sligh slight reflection that what that girlscout had said was probably all a mistake mistake after all. Of course it could not be possible that poor little J eab Jean was not going to die.K ittle girls never died as great in mulbers as numbers as boys did.Many are soldiers were or had died than any number of girlscouts.Jean was very badly wounded, probably dangerous, but she hoped she would get well in the end.Only the operation would decide it....the

decided to get even on the enemy.It was very interesting to be a heroine ,and have people look and talk about one the way all other girlscouts have been looking and talking about Violet and her sisters.Yes she did wish she ha had killed one of the ,anloys, people would wonder at her then, and she too would be important.Oh indeed it would be very nice to be important, and have the world world ttorested in one.Now very disagreeable the situation was, the whole camp tied up here because of the dangers of the flood wreckage crush and of ,ean wounded, and she had felt like sitting and crying all day long. he she knew too if she were ill or shot every one would be frightened about her and would speak with a catch in her voice or their voices, as Angeline had done,when she mentioned Jean.But then oh dear why couldn't she try one could experience once, just to find out how mch she could get even with the foe for Jeans mishap.Gertrude would care if she went of course, but even Gertrude didn't understand her, had she not gone off to be with Jean all day long, never realizing what might happen when she was away, and how she missed jean.Mildred was frightened too.There were other ways of surprising the enemy besides an open encounter.,orming an ambush for instance. She had once heard of a little girlscout, who had left camp to do the very thing, and frightened a large Glandelinian force nearly to death.

It was a very dreadful story, for it turned out to be a horrible massacre, ,and the surviving glandelinians had got lost in the woods, and had a terrible time untill at last a strong scouting party of Gargoylian Curdos came upon them and brought these survivors home to camp in such cl condition and their uniforms so much in rags that their comrades scarcely recognized them.Jane had her private doubts as to the t u h truth of this story it sounded so much like the yarns of sailors, but Violet, and her sisters had declared it was true, and that they knew the little girl who did it.It was polores Mic-hollester.Jane did not think she would enjoy committing a horrible massavre massacre, but it would be fun just to give a Glandelinian horde a surprise, to give them a good scare and down a leader for the injury done to Jane.Og Of course she could come back with her followers before Gertrude returned home, and if she were scolded ---what did it matter.Nothing seemed to matter m very much just now when her heart was aching so.If the glande lii glandelinians thought they were do going to shoot the little girlscouts and get away with it, why she might as well go and be heartless and have some "fun" with them.

She had by now finished cleaning her horse, and she brought the saddle herself and mounted.Her heart was beating very fast, it was going to be a conflict she knew it, but she had made up her mind.The glandelinians should be taught a lesson~~that~~ould fThe Glandelinians wouns find would find that they couldn't shoot down little girls, and not expect little girls to fail to retaliate.No sir.She rode to her part of the camp commanded all her force to fall in line, requested half the men escort of the Regiment to follow her, and the next minute the whole troop was riding forward briskly down the path in the direction of the woods where Jean had had her almos almost fatal adventure.No one else saw her and her followers.Angeline Pichon was indulging in a good hearty cry in the doctors tent, and all the others were still asleep.When she reached the main road, Jane paused for a moment uncertain which way to turn as she new not where the enemy was.

"I won't t go to the glon"she decided"It might be a trap for us.I guess I'll follow this path into the woods, and I know the way perfectly well. And its nice and cool here."

For ten minutes she and her column rode on steadily without stopping, and then she began to fell rather warm and tired.The sun shining through the forest fire smoke haze was hot, and the morning very sultry.She paused for a moment feeling half inclined to turn back and leave the foe unpunished. But then she caught the glimpse of something unusual not far away and decided to go on a little further.It was much warmer when she had reached the woods. She and her column rode along a shady path for some distance and then climbed a tree to scout. She hoped Gertrude and the rest would not discover her absence and worry about her.She did not want to be away very long only just long enough to find a Glandelinian Regiment and give it a good fright.Then she would return quietly to the camp and then it didn't matter much, she might be scolded by Mildred probably, perhaps punished, but she would certainly tell all the leaders that she wasn't going to let the Glandelinians shoot jean and kill other girls beforehand and get away with it.Don't you believe it.And then all at once before she realized what she was doing, Jane found herself crying---crying as if her heart would break.

A rustling in the bushes near bythe t tree caused her to look down with a start.It was very still in the woods, she was sure now that Glandelinians were approaching and with her heart beating very fast she descended from the trees, h gave some signal and the woods were "Empty." She from her hiding place listened intently for a moment, but all was quiet again.

"I guess they are not coming"she said to herself, rising rather hurridly from her hiding place, and feeling a little anxious and uncomfortable over the fear her prey might escape. She had not taken more than a dozen steps forward, when she heard it again, that same usl rustling sound and of men moving forward only this time it sounded much nearer.The little girls heart began to beat very fast indeed.She was afraid they might go elsewhere .

"There's something coming there"she said"speaking in a loud whisper "Oh I they don't change their course."

Next moment a Glandelinian horde on horseback came in sight over two hundred of them, and the next moment she had uttered her command with a piere piercing shriek, and from behind trees, and bushes and rocks a withering fire was opened upon the Glandelinians who surprised and terrified at the ambuscade, urged their horses on a dead run, but a score dropped, and there not thirty feet away from the foremost of them, they caught sight of a for e force of girlscouts and men .If there was one thing in the world above others, of which Glandelinians stood in mortal terror, that one thing was being caught in an ambuscade.

They tried to fight their way out of the trap, but even dare devil Jane ran at the Leader with her uplifted little rifle, and though tearing her dress on briars brought him down with a terrific blow.The Glandelinians neither knowing nor caring in what direction they were going, tried to retreat and though a number managed to escape, the rest were shot down, and half fainiting from terror and fatugia, they stopped exhausted, behind trees and stumps returning the fire of the soldiers and girlscouts.One Glandelinian officer was hit in the knee by a shot from Jane and stood cling ing to a tree to save himself from falling.The glandelinians kept up a spatting fire for fear the ambuscaders would charge.Seeing that they did not follow they began to edge away from their hiding places but as soon one showed himself he fell.They all then remained quite for a time and listened, scarcely during to breath.No now everything was quiet, the only sound to break the stillness were a few birds twittering excitedly because of the recent crush of so many shots.The chief leader heaved a long sigh of relief and sat down on the stup to rest. His hat was gone, his coat was torn.He was more tired and miserable than he could ever remembering remember feeling before in his life.For several minutes he sat still getting back his breath.Then when his heart had stopped beating in those great frightened bounds, and his head had stopped trembling, he took courage to look around, and try to find at if possible whether the christian ambuscade ab ambuscaders were still near.Everything looked just the same as it had looked when he and his followers first ran into the trap and had that dreadful fra with the loss all on his own side.

He had no idea how far he and his survivors had retreated but over a hundred and fifty had been shot down, and he remembered with a rather uncomfortable feeling that these scouts can go anywhere through these woods and not be lost.Then they could trail him. ,hat was he to do.Would they follow? And if he started with his survivors back the way he had come, was he not sure to meet with those dr dreadful christian girlscouts again!But if he took another path how could he possibly tell where it, might lead, maybe into another trap.And after all when he came to think of it he was not at all sure of being able to find the right path if he tried. He was not frightened at the prospect of being lost however as long as the girlscouts didn't follow. e could see that he had a full day before him, the sun was far from being high in the heaves heavens ,et, and he did not think he could have retreated a great distance.He decided that he would continued a little way in what he imagined might be the right direction, and then if things did not begin to look familiar he would turn back again and try another path.

His heart was still beating uncomfortably fast, and he started at every slight sound, fully expecting to see another force of those "dreadful" girlscouts appear from somewhere among the t trees and open fire. But he and his survivors rode on brinkly conscious of one great overwhelming desire the desire to get swiftly out of those dreadful woods, before th he was overtaken by his enemies.As to encountering those girlscouts and their escorts, the thought was too horrible to be com contemplated even for a moment. why the woods ight be full of them, and he did not know which he feared most, the christian soldiers, or these girlscouts. He retreated on for some distance, and was just beginning to comfort himself with the thought that he might meet with another force of his kind, when a sudden turn in the path brought him and his troopto the edge of a little brook.And to his horror on the other side of the brook, moving to cut him off was that band of girlscouts and their soldiers, and the awful conviction burst upon him that either he must have taken the wrong path, or that they might have taken a shorter trail to intercept him.It was a terrible conviction, and for the first moment he was almost paralyzed by the thought of it.If he meet a those here he and his surviving troops would be lost,---hopelessly lost.That last thought was too awful to be borne in silence, and with a wild outburst of terror and despair, he and his troops retreated in another direction the cal vacade of girls and soldiers full speed after them. Jane flung herself forward at r at the head of the force, lifted up her voice and shrieked;

"Surrender,youcowards or no quarter."

Even though they were little girls pursuing him and his troop it seemed like a night mare.It was really going to happen then he was going to be a fugitive in the woods all day.He knew that to be in such woods, all sorts

of dreadful things happened. John pondred hard, she had always been a brave brave child even to a dare devil recklessness, and to let those Glandelinians get away the very thought made her mad. but unfortunately the fugitives came upon a reinforcing party and they were safe, and the girls and their soldiers could not persue further. She had planned this all night, she had not slept last night so eager she had been for the adventure, as for carrying it out, one had been unusually successful. She now decided to return and let the "fools" recover their wounded. She sat up straighter in her saddle, and urged her horse in the other direction. Then came to her a recollection. She remembered a story she had been reading aloud to Jean just the other day. It was "Fighting Joe Hooker" A civil war book, and it told how two strange men on each side operating against one another yet looked alike. She decided to fool the enemy with a plan something like that the next time. She was now sure she had recieved satisfaction for poor Jean. She was quite sure now, that she was satisfied, and she had not lost a single person in the fray. But it was said that Jean was going to die, and she prayed it would not happen. She had proposed to Angeline Nichos that she was going out scouting, and she had punished a big force of the enemy instead without a single loss. But that did not appease her at the thought of Jean. She began to cry again and sobbed untill her head ached. Yet she felt sure that God would take care of her, and therefore she didn't see why she should be so frightened about Jeans condition, but she had been so badly hurt that she was afraid o it might take a miracle to save her. Suddenly there came a new thought, which brought with it a faint ray of hope and comfort. God always gives anything a person asks, and so she as she rode on folded her hands and raised her eyes to the sky and said-

"Oh Dear Blessed Mor Mother of God ask Him to take care of poor little Jean and let her get well again, let the operation be a success. She's badly wounded I know, and perhaps it's not Your Will, but if she does get well I'll try to be a still better girl, indeed I will. And oh Dear God, please don't let Jean die, she is so good and sweet, everybody loves her so. I or they don't want Jean to die. Oh Dear god please let her get well."

Hark what was that! Surely it was the sound of approaching horses. Jane ordered all her troop in hiding again, her heart beating so fast she could scarcely breathe. Was some others coming. Perhaps it was more Glandelinians and she may have a chance to strike again.

Nearer and nearer came the horses, and now she could hear the sound of mens voices. Then she saw the flash of purple among the trees and in another moment the column were considerably startled by the appearance as if from nowhere of girlscouts and Abyssinkillian soldiers. If it was not for their appearance no doubt both sides would have by mistake suddenly opened fire upon one another they got such a start. however the girls joined them it being the rest of the cavarly who had followed to see what Jane was going out for, and having heard firing had been anxious. Of course Jane had to tell the whole story, and there was an exclamation of astonishment.

"The Glandelinians were so awfully bad to shoot poor Jean, I was angry and I went off into the woods to find a troop of Glandelinians, and I sure done them up good and proper. They'll never forget me in a hurry.

It

it was very quiet in Jeans tent, and in the hole camp of the girlscout force, a strange and oppressive hush seemed to have fallen over the whole territory, and even the officers and those already up moved about slowly, and softly, and spoke in low awe stricken voices. All through the long hot and sultry night, Gertrude Angeline had sat alone outside the tent, sometimes watching anxiedly the distant forest fire glow, sometimes pacing the ground in restless impatience, but most of the time sitting idly, with her elbows resting on her knees, and her face between her hands. Every little wile she while she would rise, and steall softly to the tent to listen to the inner portion of Jeans tent room, but her ears never caught any other sound save an occasional low spoken question or answer from those within ,and the heavy labored breathing of the sick child.

Inside the tent, three girlscout leaders sat and watched, they were Minnie her sister, Mary Evangelinia Glorinia, and Mary Stanck. For many hours now that same unbroken stillness had pervaded the old tent. It was more than twelve hours since one intelligible word had passed the lips of the little child scout, and every hour the pain at the older sisters heart had been growing sharper and sharper. Four times that night had Doctor Jones come, and his grave face had bent over the little flushed face on the pillo and on his last visit he had said a few words ina low tone to the nurses, words which poor Minnie had not failed to catch.

"I think the operation at nine A.M. to morrow morning will decide the question one way or the other....."

Minnie had not had the heart to say anything then, but when the doctor left the tent, she had followed him softly to the outside of the tent.

"Doctor" she said, and her voice was brave and steady, in spite of the misery in her blue eyes. "Tell me the truth,---is there any hope?"

The kind doctor, was unable to meet that look of suffering, and he took the poor young girls hand in his , and answered very tenderly "My dear child, while there is always in Faith In God there is always hope."

That was at midnight, and now it was after two, andstill there was no change--no movement of the little motionless form. The operation would have been performed as soon as possible but the surgeon had not arived when he was expected. For more than six hours, Minnie had not moved from her seat by the bedside, but now she gave a good sudden start, roused by a touch on her shoulder.

"My dear" whispered whispered Mary Stanck, "Don't you think you'd better go outside, and tried try to get Miss Arenburg to get some sleep. She's been up all night almost, she's never gone back to her own tent, though she is usually so punctual about her sleeping hours."

Minnie however made an impatient movement.

"I can't sleep to night myself." she said.

"Yes dear, I know how you feel, but its for Gertrudes sake I ask you to do it. It isn't good for her to go without her regular nights sleep, and she won't go back to her tent unless you accompany her to it."

"Still Minnie shook her head, and Mary glanced appealing ly at Miss Glorinia.

"I think you'be going Miss Saunders," she said with cheerful decision. "I don't expect the operation to be performed for some time yet, not till ten to morrow morning at the least, and I could send for you at any moment if , wanted to. And you will surely break down yourself, you know if you don't take some rest, and then what will your little sister do when the operation is a success, and she is better and starts asking for you."?

"When she is well and asks for you!" How those hopeful words thrilled poor Minnie's aching heart. They were the only hopeful words, she had heard in days, Doctor Jones and many others have been kind, but neither of them could speak of the time when Jean would be getting better. Mary Glorina known as "Bright eyed Mary" was a bright sensible young girlscout nurse, and leader, and Minnie had come to rely upon her more than any one else... now she rose almost voluntarily.

"You will call me immediately if the operation brings about the slightest success!" she whispered.

The girlscout nurse nodded, and with one more loving glance at the little figure on the cot, Minnie left the tent followed by Mary Stanck. It was now starting to get brighter outside and the sun could be seen rising. It was now a little after Five in the morning.

Janes orderly has just been here." she said just for the sake of saying something then for any real interest she had on the subject. Jane intends to go out scouting at such an hour. Think if of it, and what happened to Jean. An ain't she got no sense."

"Going out scouting," Minnie repeated, pushing ou pausing stsi outside the tent. "If she goes she'll get into great trouble. She'll ne be lost. ow very dreadful to do it----Are you sure its true. Will Mildred let her?"

"Yes its true, but she intends to take a strong force with her, and no one had been able to persuade her not to do it. Angeline Nichos is appreh nvie apprehensive, but she won't give in. The worst of it is ,Mildred is away she went over to the south side of the camp or furth r to look out for the coming of the surgeon, and they don't expect her back till he comes."

"G Jane go going out scouting--- the little friend of whom Jean was so fond, and Mildred too. If something would happen it would be very dreadful, and yet Minnie found herself wondering, as she went outside, why it was she did not feel alarmed over this knews. Perhaps her threatened loss was making her become cold and heartless, she had believed that sometimes. Why it was hours since she had shed a single tear, and yet Jean was going to die because something was delaying the coming of the Surgeon that had been sent for. She went straight to the left of the tent, but found no one but the sentr sentry who stood rigid and silent with his shouldered musket, the picture of patient submission to fate.

"There's Gertrude Angeline?" Minnie inquired.

"In that other tent close by, Miss I've spoken to her twice, and I don don't like to do it again, for I'm afraid she'll lose her temper. Perhaps you wouldn't object to reminding her ourself Miss, that she ought to have been asleep a long time ago."

Minnie made no answer, but walked a across the company street to the tent indicated by the sentry. There she paused as she stepped inside. Her trade was certainly very kind, but she suddenly remembered the fact that she had never exchanged more than a few words with her such day since her arriv arrival in Angeline Nichoss force. They had met at meals it is true and in a times, but at meals friends never talked, not even the ordinary civilities of Good Morning or Good Evening, she forbad any speaking at all during meals, and all the officers and girlscout leaders had sat at the table in unbroken silence.

As she went in Gertrude could see Gertrude sitting by a table, her head buried in her hands, as if she was either weeping or praying. She looked very miserable and lonely, and for the first time the often strange thought flashed through Minnies mind,,, that surely there was possibly many other persons in the world, almost if not quit as miserable as herself.... Mary Glorinia had told her the night before, when the news came to her that Jean was injured that the little girl was almost the image or image of one of the Vivian Girls. Could it be possible that she had really learned to love the little girlscout very dearly, and that it was more than remorse over the fact that the deserter Jack had been the cause of her disaster, that was grieving Gertrude so greatly.!!!It was a sudden thought, and it brought with it the very first sensation of pity that shewhad probably felt for any one but herself since Jean was shot.

Next moment Gertrude felt a light touch on her harm, and lifting her head with a start sat staring for an instant at the elder girlscout standing beside her almost as Minnie thought to herself, as if she did not recognize her.

"what is it that you like to have?""she asked in a strange low voice-"what do you want, what is the matter?"

"Nothing; I only came to tell you that it is hard for you to remain up without a little sleep."

"How is she?"

"Just the same.The surgeon did not come yet. Miss Glorinia-- says she doesn't expect any change for some time yet."

"There never will as long as that Surgeon does not come,"she answered, and with a sigh, Gertrude rose slowly to her feet.She walked a few steps tward the door of the tent, then same came back, and laying her hand in Minnie's said;

"You look very pale"You are doing the same thing as I.You need rest too."

"Oh I am quite well,"said Minnie with a faint attempt to smile. "I should be all right if only Jean would be better, or if the surgeon would come."

"Did Doctor Jones tell you that he has not waited for that one surgeon and had telegraphed to the new nearest special Surgeon of the army of general vivianius which is so near.?"

"No"said Minnie, looking rather startled."

"Well he has.I told him to and not wait for the turdy Surgeon we expected. His name is Doctor Constantine, he will be here any minute I expect, and between them they ought to be able to do something."

"With a sudden impulse, Minnie held out both her hands to Gertrude, as she had done on the first afternoon of her arival.

"Oh, how good you are,"she said unsteadily,"How can I ever thank you."?

She had scarcely uttered these impulsive words, when she wished she had left them unsaid, for Gertrude had suddenly turned upon her, an almost savage light in her gray eyes.

"I do not want you to never speak to me in that way.I suppose you think because because I'm a great girlscout leader, that I must have lost all the love and affection I ever had?No? I tell you once that I alone won't be thanked, now do you understand me?".

"Yes Miss Aronburg, yes,"faltered Minnie."I'm very sorry if I",

"There, that will do."There's nothing for you to be sorry about,It's I. Now come to breakfast, and then to bed."

The breakfast passed off in the same unbroken silence as usual. Neither Minnie nor her host ate very much, and indeed Minnie was very thankful when Gertrude rose from the table. They were just leaving the Mess hall when a courier rode up.

"Miss Aronburg----excuse me---had you heard about little Jane melfort and what she did to a horde of Glandelinians out----in ---the woods."?

"No."snapped the girlscout,"And what's more I don't care either. The Glandelinians can all die for what I care." and she stalked impatiently out of the Mess hall, but Minnie lingered behind to inquire,

"Has anything been heard of the little girlscout Jane yet."?

"Anything heard, you don't understand Miss. She came back to camp alright and she had a meeting with the Glandelinians.The queer thing about it is. it was a squadron of our own cavarly who came upon her and those with her. why she went out into the woods and ambushed a Regiment of Glandelinians nearly frightening the survivors to death, and persuing them for two miles hounding them down.The Glandelinians only escaped when joined by another party across a brook.Of course she came home without a loss of a single person and had twenty prisoners with her."

Minnie was conscious of a feeling of something like surprise.A Jane had been very good to Jean, it would be most terrible if she had been hurt or killed too, but once back in Jeans tent for she could not sleep, the older sister had eyes, ears, thoughts and heart for nothing in the world except that little motionless form on the bed.It seemed to her that the child was a conscious now but suffering great pain, and oh how she was moaning. But when she whispered her fears to Miss Glorinia, the girlscout nurse still spoke encouragingly.

"We can't tell anything as to results yet till the operation is performed." she said."It's lucky you see she is not in a stupor.That would be a danger signal.The operation will decide it."

It was at about seven fifteen oclock when Doctor Jones finally appeared. He was accompanied by Mildred, and a citizen with black hair, and a kind princely and clever face, whom Minnie knew at once must be the army Surgeon, of whom Gertrude had spoken, who might be able to do something for Jean.

"Now my dear Miss Saunders,"said Doctor Jones kindly,"We shall have to ask you and the three others to leave the room.The surgeon Doctor [illegible] and I are going to make an examination of the little patient and probably operate and Miss Glorinia will help us."

Minnie rose obediently.

"Let me kiss her just once more before I go," she whispered.

The doctor nodded, and Minnie pressed her lips long and passionately to the little half bandaged burning forehead.. Then she turned, and with a heart that was almost breaking, she left the room, closely followed by Mary [illegible].

Outside the tent, the young girl tottered and sank against a tree, feeling suddenly very weak and faint.It seemed to her asthough in these moment few moments, her little sisters fate was to be decided. With an exclamation of pity and sympathy, Mary gathered the swaying form in her arms.

"My poor dear, my poor dear" she murmured, as Minnie with one great tearless sob walked slowly to a stump"If you can only cry or try to, you would feel much better."

"I can't cry, I've tried." said the girl in a hoarse whisper."I've made an effort but I can't.She's all I have in the world besides our parents, and when she is gone I'll be as well off as if I am terribly alone."

The clasp of Marys arms tightened perceptibly.

"My dear child"she said very tenderly "Have you asked God and His Blessed Mother to help you bear this trouble, and to make your little sister well?"

"I insure so, But He does not seem to grant it, and how could I deserve to have my prayers granted granted, when throughout the whole of Calverinia so many hundreds and hundreds of thousands of flood sufferers, and war torn people have such terrible sorrows and losses in this war, and I feel I am no better than they. Under this situation I do not always feel sure, that God might hear me when I pray to Him or His Blessed Mother or the Saints for things"

"He does hear every prayer." said Mary softly stroking the girlsforehead as she spoke." We don't always understand of course what is going on in this war, and I know since so many suffer probably worse b because what the enemy did, and He doesn't seem to hear their prayers, that it doesn't seem best for us that our own prayers should be granted, but He always hears, and Will grant it if you have the faith.And now I'm going to ask you to do something."

"I will do anything I can!"said Minnie, raising her head with sudden eagerness,"You have been so good to me,I shall be glad to do something for you, anything."

"Well it is not exactly for me this time," said Mary smiling"That is to say in one way it is, and in one way it isn't.I want you to go down to the prison tent and find out from that boy Francis how it was that Jack got scared and deserted Jean."

"To go near the prison tent," exclaimed Minnie, looking rather scornful-"Oh Miss [illegible], I don't think I could do that, I don't want to see the coward."

"You need not see him but Francis who guards him now." said Mary."You need not be afraid of Francis, he's gruff and short in his manners sometimes, but he doesn't mean anything by that.He has got one of the kindest hearts in the world, and he [illegible] Jean.He will tell you much I'm sure."

"You told me once that Jean looked very much like one of the Vivian Girl Princesses,is that why so many others are so fond of her?"

"Yes its partly that, and partly other things."

Francis on guard was pacing up and down the tent, just as he had been doing other times with his gun [illegible] his shoulders.He [illegible] that the next hour might decide the fate of the little life the whole Regiment had grown to love so well.There was a slight sound behind him, and he turned to meet the gaze of a pair of tender blue eyes filled with a nameless grief and misery.He had him relieved, and a new boy placed on guard till she was through speaking with him.

"Is there anything I can do for you?" He asked in a tone that Minnie scarcely recognised it was so low and gentle.

"No"said Minnie, in a rather unsteady voice"It isn't that,I didn't come for anything, but, but I am very lonely and unhappy, and I thought you could give me some details as to the desertion, as you seem so fond of her too."

"Fond of her." the boy scout repeated slowly, and there was a strange ring in his voice, and a strange gleam in his eyes,"I think I am fonder of her than I have ever been of any human being."

Minnie came a step nearer, she was not afraid of anything more.

"Was that boyscout Jack really a deserter?"she asked softly.

"What do you know about my prisoner!" he demanded sharply.

"Not much, only that he was out with Jean and when the enemy attacked he got scared and ran away.Mary told me that, and I thought perhaps you knew more about it."

"Mary [illegible] told you that, did she.?What else did she tell you?"

There was no evading the steady gaze of those keen blue eyes, but Minnie met the gaze unflinchingly,I she had nothing to fear.

"That is all"she said quietly.

"She didn't tell you he was a yellow streaked coward, who pushed two other girlscouts aside so he could race his horse away, because he got scared when the enemy opened fire,she didn't tell you that he left Jean lying there to the danger of being captured and slaughtered?"

"No said Minnie"she never told me that."

"Well if she had, it would have been nothing but the simple truth.I saw it all.There are some things that [illegible] bear talking about on that subject, and that we can't forgive the coward for."

With one of her sudden impulses so like Jeans, Minnie held out both her hands, to the boy.......

"...I'm so sorry sorry that such an evil thing had to happen." she said it."I wish I could say something for your comfort.."

"Never mind sit down please" said the boy ... abruptly waving her toward a tree stump."Now then, suppose you tell me something about yourself and how you came to be a girlscout scout in the army.If little Joan----if she should not get well----you say you will be alone in the world.?"

Minnie shook her head, she could not hardly speak.

"Then surely you must have have some nearest relation."

"I have my parents, one sister and a brother in Calverine, but they are the only ones.Joan and I have been all alone here since we entered the army as girlscouts."

"Joan told me your father is an Abbiemanian..How about your mothers people, are they in Calverine too?"

"They are dead." said Minnie with a slightly heightened color."I have an uncle and aunt and also grand parents , but no other relatives."

"Are your grand parents still living.?"

"No.They are still alive."

"What did you wish to learn about the prisoner ?"

"Details as how he deserted J a Joan."

"Is he any relation to you?"

"No,oh,no I'm not at all fond of him---but , believe if we could get details we could bring the evidence more against him.Otherwise there will be some trouble over it at the trial, and if we did not hear very much about his desertion how in any one could a to prove it. and we have only one witness and that is Joy Baple."

There was a short pause, the boy drummed ratherly nervously with his fingers on the butt of his rifle.He was the first to speak.

"What was the purpose of your sister Joan going out to find me in the first place,?"he asked abruptly.

Minnie hesitated.

"I do not really know, she never told me and I did not even think she she went.Two boyscouts died when the enemy fired in ... and I don't think I got any news of her and injuries untill hours afterwards.I never liked to ask Gertrude Angeline about it, knowing the subject to be also a painful one for her."

"Well that is a queer state of things.It's strange no one told you sooner.No one ... often speaks of the deserter I suppose."

"Yes they do, they are wondering about what John will do, and how he'll face the penalty."

"I suppose you mean if she dies, he'll die?"

"Probably so."

"And if she lives.?"

"He'll be turned over to the decision of o o one of the Vivian Girls."

A wave of strong emotion swept over Francis face, ... the head resting on the ... butt, ... was too much occupied with her own sad thoughts to even notice it. When he spoke, and his voice shook, ... as he had said.

"... he dies if she dies.And she loved me so dearly and every one in the camp too loved her."

Minnie started.Something in the boys manner suddenly struck her as decidedly odd, she gave one quick all glance into his white set face,and the next moment had started impulsively to her feet.

"You are ill,you are overwork-d let me do something for you.Oh I am so sorry if I have said anything to hurt ... forget you had lost a friend. Oh please forgive ... and let me do something to help you."

"You did not hurt me, and I'm not sick either, so you needn't worry about that.Sit down again, and tell me some more about the bad cowardly boy--I've got an idea I know why he deserted her."

"You suspect why he deserted her."?

"I sure do. When the enemy came in sight he even almost pushed her off the horse to get away."

"Yes that is what I heard too.Oh how strange it seems that you should have known ..."

"..." said the boy ... word at a time.Many years ago I made a vow.I vowed to myself that as long as I might live, I would never ... deserters, traitors, and so forth, never to have anything to do with them, or their ..."

"You--you--made that vow"gasped Minnie growing very pale."You must have known traitors and deserters very well then---Oh Francis tell me what does it mean?"

"It means that all traitors and cowardly deserters are yellow,-- have their mind only on their own safety and satisfactions ... they are all ... selfish and brutal.Their wicked pride, overcomes everything else. I might not have thought of mentioning it if it were not for Joan.I have known who you were and Joan was too from the first day I saw her.The likeness was unmistakable, and then there was the name.Were it not for the poor childs sad affliction, she might have passed for Angeline Vivian herself."

"Angeline Vivian." repeated Minnie in growing bewilderment."Do you know us then----are we any relation to you.?"

"She is my only cousin and you too." said the boy solemnly."The news of her fall almost broke my heart.I am your nearest cousin, and if she dies I shall be very lonely."

Some one just then rode up, and doctor James came up,without noticing the agitation on the two faces, he rode up straight to Minnie, and dismounting took her hand in his.

"Miss Saunders"he said very gently,"I want to prepare you for a great surprise----great joy. The surgeon and also I both believe the operation is a complete success, ... she is perfectly ..., the fever has ..., even any danger of complications setting in ... believe she will be able to walk around even in less than a a week.The ... were ... very ..."

The boyscout sank to his knees with a murmured thank God, and then covered

his face with his hands.Next moment he had lifted his face again with a violent start for a pair of warm young arms were around his knock neck, a soft tear wet face was pressed to his.

"Cousin Francis"whispered the sweet young girlish voice."I think I understand it all, and I want to tell you something that papa and mama said before I went away."If you should ever see your cousin Francis Saunders, Minnie---it isn't all likely you'll have the chance, for he is far away somewhere---but if you ever do, love him for my sake, he is a good boy, and teach little Joan to love him too."I will love you indeed I will, and so will Joan, and none of us will never be lonely now."

Toward NOONTIME of this day Gertrude managed to call up Joans part of the camp. The number was supposed to be considered as ..., ... and the others ... there.You know how a girl feels when she does not know whether a little friend is going to die or not.Gertrude of course felt like a suffering saint. Her argument got her the number in a hurry.It was a boo boyscout who answered the phone.

"Is that Joans tent onthe raft.?"

" Part on what craft."

"No no not short you blockhead.I want to speak to Joan - Saunders.Is that her part of the camp."

"Who is Joan ...?"

"Oh get off the phone and call some one who is not so darn dumb."

She heard the boy call to some one and finally came the word "Hello."

"Hello, who is speaking."

"This is a girlscout on the phone at Joans camp.Who is calling?"

"Miss Angelinia Arenburg."

"Well I'm Miss Turner, are you asking about Joan?Well let me give you good news.The operation on the little fairy was most successful at that from the verdict of the surgeons. Her heart is b very strong, and her wounds are clear and she is herself again and feels very little pain.Do you know that she thinks a lot of you."

"I knew it but I cannot understand it,but I and the whole force has done for Joan I have done for many a boy and girlscout, and would do again for any of them under the same circumstances.It's good news indeed to hear she is all right."

"Well she is very grateful.While she was unconscious during the operation as they tell me she talked about you and the whole camp freely and in language astonishing for a girl of her young years.All her remarks came to his this, that God Bless and keep you always."

"But how is she getting on...?"

"Splendidly.Everything is in her favor."

"Thank you very much Jennie.In two or three hours I shall try to pay her a visit.You see I was up all night with her and I need some sleep."

It was not however till toward late afternoon that she was able to carry out her intention.Joan lying in her cot and condemned to lie for a few days longer was chatting gaily with her sister, Jennie Turner, and no doubt Gertrudes Aide-de-camp was there, for he was the subject of their conversation. Jennie had come with flowers----the tent was rich with them----and other girls to entertain, but it seemed to be as the saying is, the other way round.It was Joan who was providing the entertainment.The child scout was delighted indeed to see Gertrude,everybody she said was so kind to her, the girlscout leaders had come to see her,and the privates as often as possible, even a letter had come from papa and mamma from far away Calverine, though she could not understand how it came in spite of the extensive floods, the girls of her camp during the forenoon and afternoon had visited her in fours by turn, and they had worked together and brought her such lovely flowers.George had brought her an apple pie, the girlscout nurses and ... the doctors had been so kind, the girlscout leaders in charge of her tent kinder, and Jennie Turner kindest of all, and the surgeon was even as good as doctor James."And Gertrude concluded Joan"You've got to just be really wounded once and in danger of dying in order to learn how much kindness and goodness there is in our girlscout camps."

"If that's the case"said Jennie Turner"I'd just as soon not know.I'm willing to take such goodness and kindness for granted."

Whereupon Joan and her sister laughed in all the freedom of her former days, ... quarter of an hour passed very quickly, and as Jennie Turner and Gertrude rode down the road together and remarked.

"Joan is like a little fairy.She puts me in mind of one of the Vivian girls,"

"Think"Gertrude said"of a fairy like child undergoing an operation."

"That is precisely where her " fairy powers" comes in," retorted Jennie. "No one could expect, ... The surgeon says she'll be sitting up in a day or two, and on her feet in less than two weeks."

The next morning Gertrude learned from Joans sister that she had improved. Therefore she went to see her again.She was already up.It was good to see her again--to see her still the same frank, opened hearted child she had been at the time of her first Holy Communion.

"Now Gertrude"she went on after a mutual change of civilities and salutes, "I want your advise, tell me what I am to do concerning Jack Tellis, the one who deserted me."

"I'm ready to give you advise Joan, for I have been thinking and thinking, untill I have reached a very great practical conclusion."

"Anything you say Gertrude."

"To begin with Joan he is still held a prisoner.Your girlscouts too have been working very long hours to repair our damaged raft."

"They are too long Gertrude."

"On account of our desperate situation yes. The want of fresh air, necessitated by so much heat and smoke is likely to tell on all of us, and besides good as you and his are, none of your force has been able to get away from the burden and responsibilities of the work since you were laid up."

"It must be hard "assented Joan."Oh Gertrude do you think you will have to place Jack before a firing squad.?"

Mr. James J. Welsh Chicago Ill

"One thing at a time my dear. No. And I see no difficulty in your scouts going on in their work as they have for a little while longer, but think of what we [illegible] our trip. Probably it'll take three days to put our raft into shape. It seems it seems clear your girls and boys shouldn't be made to work so much.
"I miss them too. It's bad enough to be without my boys who were killed when I was shot, and since we are so far away from Calverine I feel like a an orphan. So does [illegible]."
"Well now I have a plan which isn't a real sure one, but still I have enough faith in you to try it John."
"Thank you Gertrude. I'll do anything to justify your counting on me."
"First of all you must for the present drop your vow of dangerous outing as which was the cause of your plight."
"I sure will."
"Secondly, you must again for the present drop your engagements of of going out after foolish reckless boys."
"Willingly Gertrude."
"In the third place you need only to come to girlscout class, during only every other day in the week—the rest of the time [illegible] for code and other studies. The rest of the time in class hours, I want you to give to short hand, and mysterious tr typewriting alone. Angeline Jennings or her sister Dolores will give you an occasional [illegible] you are, to be able to go on with your work without [illegible]."
"Oh Gertrude," cried John joyfully "I think I begin to see what you mean."
"You only think so John, but the plan which is for the sake of our cause, and the success of our [illegible] a dead secret. The two [illegible] girls knows it, and are delighted, I know it, and am not going to tell you. But you must be sure to keep it all to yourself, or we'll never get to Emperor Emperor Viviano [illegible]."
"I will Gertrude."
"Upon your honor."
"Yes, cross my heart and hope to die."
The great secret, roused [illegible] enthusiasm, to the highest pitch. She snapped her hands, and thanked Gertrude, as the latter left the tent to assume her own duties.

47

SEEMINGLY THE WORLD ASSAILED BY FLOODS AND FOREST FIRES. INTRODUCING A STRANGER WITH VERY PROMISING RESULTS FOR THE GIRLSCOUTS. IN WHICH EVERYBODY IS EXCITED, AS THEY NEAR THE REGION OF EVANGELINE ST CA CLAIR TOWN!

How long Gertrude, or Angeline Riches and their followers were going to take to get to Evangeline St Claire s no one could tel tell. Hoping to have the chance to make some progress on the raft Gertrude, Angeline, and all the highest girlscout leaders went up the slopes of some high hill to take in a view of the scenery and especially the flood, and the fires. But the flood was like a portent of universal destruction, something like the flood of Noah, it did not let down, nor did it decrease, rather it seemed to increase, and to the east, as if blazoned before a terrified world, the forest fires, were seas of smoke and flame, the effects of the greatest disasters seeming to have burst with the most appalling threat not upon the warring countries, but to threaten bad effects to the world in general, for past before this occur ed the whole world even had been joyful in the beauties of springtime, pros prosperity and progress had been reigning. The whole nation had been shaken by the convulsion fits of the terrific war that had been marring the peace of mankind but outside of battles and usual massacres nothing unusual had seemed to occur. Now what had happened.

Since early last june, nay even during [illegible] elsewhere following came the continual shock of new disasters, distant explosions with the force of volcanic eruptions, the destruction of many her cities and villages, the deaths in horrible torture of many more thousands of hapless people, the tortures of conflagrations, famine thirst, diseases, the heartrending grief of countless multid multidues multitudes mourning their loved ones who were lost, the wails of many countless thousands crying for succor.

Gertrude knew that ever since it began the series of disasters of this dreadful war were spectacles of horrors that never was to be blotted from her memory for she had seen lots [illegible] of it. She had seen the ruined cities and those who had hastened to the relief of the afflicted suffering as much as the effects of the disaster would alcow, allow. She realized from what she had heard, and read, that the whole world had been aroused to an outpouring of the greatest sympathy never so excelled by any other disaster, that the whole world was gathering ships, sending messengers of pity, asking for permission to intervene against the enemy in behalf of christianity, sending money, food, clothing and means of healing, to hasten all red cross nurses and doctors and orderlies and Nuns from various nations to the stricken scenes for the salvation of those who survived.

Therefore Gertrude knew as she surveyed this one vast sea of water in the west, and the sea of smoke and fire eastward, that the one bright spot in the terrible picture before her was placed there by this unusual and unexampled demonstrations of universal human sympathy, the brotherhood of men of every christian nation, and that touch of Nature which makes the whole world kin wherever suffering assails some stricken region or land. Glendolinia it was seen had the whole world against her, and her cause.

Gertrude and her followers had heard a lot of the grievous scenes that had met the relief expeditions that had penetrated the region of horror as far as they could go. The pen hesitates, the voice trembles in the efforts to describe what horrors were there, and yet many of Gertrude's followers had witnessed most of the awful disasters. All parades fail, even the imagination recoils. No words of any number of big volumes are able to convey the whole of the desolation that Gertrude Angeline and her many followers had seen for days, nor imagine the suffering, the grief, the sickness and the homeless, which before this they had also seen. There was not one soul in all the war stricken territory that did not have to bear in their memory the terrors and the tears that followed fast upon this awful cataclysm which though suspected of the enemy had not yet been proven. As she surveyed the vast expanse of water filled with floating debris Gertrude said;

"How powerless indeed is our nation as it seems to save even after Nature assails through the suspected efforts of the enemy, how feeble our boasted strength and intellect against the stupendous natural forces, produced by the unknown strange works of the enemy, who create explosions which could rend mountains in twain, make the earth rock like the waves of the sea from the concussions, and cause floods which no one can comprehend. And Glendolinia calls this war. If it is then what is civilized warfare."

"Yes, Ebbleman—Angelinia Agathia, what town, what part of our continent indeed, did not feel the dreadful convulsion of this dreaded war, shuddering under the pressure of the unheavings caused by enemy made gruesome explosions. bursting as if with the expansive force of [illegible] volcanos of gases under volcanoes struggling to find a vent. You know since Ebbleman was destroyed, succeeding disturbances were reported from near and far."

"How did you know?"

"Jenn told me so. She recieved a letter from him when she was ill. She said Mullmount State felt the shocks of disaster. Next many other places were scourged by fires, parts of the flood, and explosion and great loss of life. In quick succession she said the letter stated came the news of actual disasters elsewhere of all [illegible] similiar kinds, as floods or volcanic and earthquake disturbances, throughout all northwestern Calverinia, where any many thousands of lives were lost, she said the letter states the flood had extended into Angelinia state, Angeline or Evangeline St Claire is inun dated, from Angeline Vine state, land of Paradise, from southwestern Calverinia, [illegible] of the most destructive efforts of the floods is raging, from Bengali County, from our own territory, where disaster even threatens us, adding to the horror of the Ebbleman explosions whose noise they say was heard more than 10,000 miles, from middle southern Calverinia,

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now being most historic from the ravages of flood, which from the sea like expanse of the flooded Aremburgs Run poured the floods of ever increasing waters and debris that devastated Angelinia Agathia and Dorothy Gale cities, an and indeed from every other recognized portion of our own country, and we are in the midst of this whole cataclysm........

Gertrude Angeline, (like the whole of mankind) stood aghast; She wondered exceedingly were the Clandelinian forces about to manifest themselves in a series of new destructive assaults on nature, but would the news of the situat ion at Angelinia Agathia, of Angeline Vine State, disconnected now city the wit with the rest of the world, and all communications destroyed be if news could travel despite flood and fire by wireless telegraph. Gertrude had a fear that Angelinia Agathia, Dorothy J Gale, Jessicia, Calverinias best southern cities might be annihilated. Cities and t'n towns in Angeline Vine State southwest of Calverinia, the best state of Abbiesnnia and a true tropic beauty was to her idea probably no more. Southern Calverinia was a land of devastation, floods, massacres, but sea battles and forest fires, and complications of other terrible disasters, and other awful phenomena of the war. What might be Angelinia's part in the sequence of destruction. Gertrude felt a fear that the cause might be lost at that, and that Mildreds arguments with Jean on that matter might be a fact. And was it strange that a chill of apprehension was felt by all in the countries round about who stopped to think of the disasterous possibilities of this dreadful Claudice-Abbiesnnian War.? That the more fearsome would ask ""where was safty." That the superstitious quer qui queried "is this the end of the world?"

One thing that Gertrude Angeline knew, for which she had heard of and read of in papers Science had found work to do, even Volcanic Science had been sent to the region of the Abbiesnn disasters to find out the real cause of the explosive disasters, while the sym sympathies of humanity all over the world were engaging the relief parties.. She was thankful indeed to God and His Blessed Mother that Abbiesnnia was not the only christian nation in the world. Even the greatest students of Volcanic and and seismic phenomena scanned the situation to find out whether the explosions had been of under ground disturbances or of sudden new volcanic eruptions,, they studied the conditu x conditions as far as it was possible, and endeavored to add what they could to the sum of knowledhe knowledge that might guide threatened communities elsewhere how to predict and how to escape such awful volcanic calamities, but they could not find any such evidence, and the reports of the eruptions of Mt Calverine, Jean, Vivian and other volcanoes in the neighborhoods a s the cause was found of no truth as these mountains had not and were not active and did not show any signs of being active for the near future. Never before as Gertrude heard since world science reached its present state of wide spread learning had there been such an opprtonuty u opportunity to draw lessons from catastrophies that might save lives in the future, but here the best and most learned of them were stumified, and said that it could not have been any results of nature, [illegible] explain why, and suspici sup suspicion was therefore more placed upon to the enemy?

Gertrude wondered what was the effects of this disaster and others upon the public minds throughout the world. She remembered the Bible history of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities of the plains, for the wickedness of the people by the rain of sulphurious flames from on high, Pompeii overwhelmed by the destructive eruption of Vesuvius, Lisbon and many other cities in different countires shattered by earthquake shocks to the destruction of uncounted thousands of lives, but none of these met with any record of these which had occured in Calverinia. She recalled all that history might state since the beginning of history, all of the cataclysmic disasters wrought by natures irrestible power, but none of these combined committed all that the strange disasters of this war was accomplishing. Looking often upon this flood, and reviewing the distant furnaces of fires in the distant forests Gertrude and all her leaders sometimes felt afraid. They felt that they were like souls in Purgatory, but for some reason or other had to stay their time, but yet were not either touched by loathsome waters, or suffered the pains of fire. Whether the interests of the world had been roused as it had never been roused before, or not, did not yet concern them, their only anxious thoughts was "How were they going to get back to Emperor Vivians army. It had been since was that the catastrophe had occured, and yet when the most violent of the successive disasters had still continued, when the work of the relief parties and the many various kinds of scientists--or such parts as could be either done in haste, or slowly as far as safty allowed--continued, with only baffling results, it was possible throughout the world for the first time to attempt a realization of but what had occured, and the far reaching effects of this disaster and flood and forest fire horrors had resulted in. None of the nations believed it a fra freak of Nature. They believed Nature couldn't do it, without leaving clues, and no sle clues were found that could be blamed on Nature. Even the news came to the people of the far off natu nation of Protestantia, bringing thankfulness, that almost by a miracle the splendid Protestantia, passenger ship barely missed destruction in the disaster, when on the sea going river ten miles south of Abbiesnn. Two days before the disaster it had put in at the harbor of Abbiesnn. Signs of bad wars disturbances were seen and hear e heard of, and on that day before the crash, the ship left the harbor of the city and reached the sea before the catastrophe occured. It is considered a miraculous escape for if the explosions and resulting floods had taken place wh when the ship was there it would surely have been destroyed. There were over two thousand passengers on the ship mostly women and children including two hundred of the crew, and the captain captian and other officers.

Sometime later that day Gertrude was shown the letter Jean had recieved from home and one of the statements was as follows!

A nd to think Jean dear the newspapers here in Calverine says that one

one the most remarkable features of the whole disaster was the great and unusual topographical changes it made and threatened to make in the ben bed of our great Lake Mic-collester. In some places the lead telegraphic cables sank fully twenty or fourty fathoms deeper in this enormous and deep lake than it was previous to the catastrophe, before finding bottom. This easily explains Jean dear why cable communication withall parts of Calverinia was cut off from Bangall State.. Even the lake is completely now navigable to any big ships because of this crash, and the unusual seismological changes are not only made in the bed of the lake to an extent which makes navigation impossible but the water has rixe risen as the flooded rivers of the south pour in the lake in enormous torrents, and Calverine is menanced by the inundation too. All the charts of that prtion of the sea is utterly useless, and stranger than fiction. In places where previously there had not remained enough water for a thirteen feet ship the water is deep enough now to float a battleship, while many well known shp shoals charted as a menance, entirely disappeared. The con cussion of the explosions we had altered the bottom of the lake to such an extent as to be beyond recognising, and yet the scientists say the disturbance was not of Nature. How could the enemy create a disaster that would do this?"

The changes in the level of this lake were only confined to the immed iate vinicity of the lake according to the report of the scientists but other have disch discovered that the changes extended as far as Angelinia An Agathia and on all river beds. Rescue vessels plying between flooded La Paloma and El Verso from which the flood yet has not gone down, and to Mildred Greenburg found it necessary to heave the lead while out in the middle of the river. The papers dear Jean says also that very serious and unusual transformations occured in the vinicity of Abbiesnn, where a considerable part of the south end of the city and the land and hills even slid into the lake, leaving a wide inlet in place of that part of the enormous city. Rescue ships that made efforts to approach that locality reported it impossible to get within ten miles to the scene of the catastrophe because of the fury of the rushing floods, and at that distance the flood was seriously perturbed as from a submarine volcano from the force and speed of the torrent, boiling forward and roaring continually. The theory was advanced that the flood origin ated from an unknown source/

It is now passing july and the flood is still raging. Whether volcano eruptions sprang from the ground in the vinicity of Abbiesnn, or not remained to be determined, but conditions certainly do not seem to give clues to the cause of the cataclysm in that fashion. Those who know much about Volcanoes and their eruptions made examinations and declare that the explosive forces are profound mysteries. So the suspicion is on the enemy. In any event as the papers say Jean dear the disasters of that Bangall State, which extends in the flood horrors through Calverinia, a Angelinia and two other states, and which concussion shook down so many towns ought to be regarded as warnings to us all so we can keep our eyes and ears open, for if it is true that the enemy was really guilty of all this, what will he do next?

You might think that some one may be wrong and that these awful disasters might be works of Nature Jean, but all the eminent Volcano scientistssent there to investigate, and who study volcanic eruptions, hold that the disaster had nothing to do with any volcanic eruptions, and that where the crashes happened no volcanic scenery exists. They went so far to predict the possibility of the same force that occured near Lake Selicia sometime last November either destroying that lake region by that great torrent resulting, or causing inundations. The papers say the effects of these disasters and the ravaging floods continuing has caused caused continual panic among the in inhabitants of all surviving towns and cities in any of our states, even people are afraid to go to bed at nights here in Calverine. In St Lucia, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Antigua, Nevis and St Kitts States there is great concern over the possib8 lities of disasters to their cities, and in Aby seinkile all levees of their rivers and damns of lakes are guarded by the militia at every post, and martial law exists in all towns and cities. We in Calverine are worried.

And Jean dear you can tell your friends that the most strange atmospheric conditions and unusual actions on the part of the flood are continually noticed since the catastrophe commenced by all the inhabitants of Calverine and other cities, and it is feared that some terrible calamity is pending because of this Abbiesnn horror, and flood. During the latter half of this month of July many hundreds of thousands of people have left Calverine, Pandera, Francis Atlanta, Mary Stanck and other big cities to escape the pop possibe ilities of floods and explosions that might occure a near their respective neighborhoods. And Jean dear not alone in Calverinia but in other States of our country, the shocks of this disaster is being felt. The floods are reported raging over the whole of the Aremburgs Run district, but no fatalities occured. The flood disturbances are supposed to be connected with the upheavens upheavals of the Abbiesnn horror. I recieved a telegram from some friend ou of ours who lives way down in Gertrude Angeline City Northwestern Angelinia State, that at the time of the explosions at Abbiesnn the shocks were felt there for fifteen minutes and every building was visibly shaken. The air at Gertrude Angeline was filled with a strange hqze haze.

The flood this month instead og of going down is greatly increasing, and owing to the floods threatening aspect in North Western Angelinia repair work on the extension of the Angelinia and Calverinia Railroad is being suspended. After that date the flood is said to have increased considerably

ad loud roaring noises from the flood is heart heard. From the earliest time the flood began till now, the whole country has been much affected. In Calverine here the waters in our streets have greatly increased, and almost daily it has risen an inch."

Well Good bye Jenni. I'll write again when I learn more.
Be good and faithful to your
Cause.

Your parents.

Calverine..

While Gertrude and her officers were up on the high elevation they looked also in the direction of the distant forest fires, for they had heard breif details of the action of the progressive conflagration now raging northeast of Black Forest division, the reports having been recieved on this day from a Courier it being now Jy July the 29th. The courier had reported to Gertrude, tha that a lateral movement of the fire advanced tward Kerns on the opposite side of the flood region and sixty miles northeast of Gladys Junction and was hell bent for Evangeline St Claire. Gertrude knew the fire has been burning for the last three or four months but the heaviest part of the conflagration was occ uring now. Reports were given that the flames for many miles were rising hundreds of feet, but Gertrude could see nothing even with the help of her glasses as the whole landscape before her in that locality was hidden from her view bydense smoke, and at times dense rolls and streaks of smoke would apparently thrw threaten to come tward the group of girlscouts. The forest fire now they believed was sixty miles from their observation point but the girls felt somewhat frightened, and believed they had never known such a violent conflagration as this one. If it was not that their progress was probably slowed up by this they might have been greatly interested in the conflagration if not generallybalarmed.
As was expected by many of the girlscouts some one else had brought news from the east of an westerly spread of the great conflagration near the town of Goldblatt. This furnace of fire burning through the eastern wing of the Arenburgs Run Woods, was not acurately known but the witnesses had seen bursting forth on the few nights before as vast a column of fire and smo k smoke as if a hundred big volcanoes were in their fullest eruption. since then the scene had continued day and night. The courier who had reported the conflagration left the territory July 20th the date during the battles of Riches farm but owing to the heavy clouds of smoke which shut off his view of the forest fire scne he was i unable to determine whether the forest fire was spreading three directions or one. The courier saw an immense column of fire while near the battle field of Nimbles Amse on the middle of July. Refugees of the battle told him on the following morning that the sea of flames he saw came from the southeastern branch of the Marie Osborn forest.
They had heard of the destruction of the city of Angelinia Agathias by the forest fire, or that it suffered almost complete annihilation, and that hundreds of its inhabitants had been killed by heat or burned by the fires. Jennie Turner herself had recieved a wireless telegram, which brought her the news that the beautiful city of Angelinia Agathias situated at the foot of a forested hill in Angelinia State had been overwhelmed by the fires which had been driven forward by a violent wind, and probably one thousand or more of its people had perished.
Angelinia Agathias lay several miles back from Irisntown on the same stream, and Irisntown too had been as recently written also destroyed. Some thing like earthquake shocks caused by terrific explosions probably produced by the fires had continued at short intervals every day since the fires had com come u, when the city of Stanislaw also was destroyed. and the fury of the coal conflagration was of sufficient strength and fury to keep the resident residents of every town and villiage in the entire region in a state of terror, and little was done to repair the damage done by fires. after more than a month a black pall of smoke hung over the whole country, and the glare from the conflagration continually illuminated the sky, day or night, night. Many of the inhabitants of the very city of Marcusian had fled from their homes to places of safty, and these had escaped frightful deaths. When at last the fire broke upon the town it was consumed.
Gertrude indeed was dumfounded, she did not know how long these floods and forest fires would take to subside sufficiently to encourage any hope for reaching Emperor Vivians army, or to reach the area immediately surrounding the city of Evangeline St Claire. Even after a day of apparent silence another overwhelming br ourbreak in the flood might follow and that approaches to the scenes of fires might be attended with the utmost danger. Nevertheless in order to try and find some way through, the girlscouts decided to take the chances of their lives to investigate the places of greatest interest, and greatest danger. Some of the girlscout leaders opposed Gertrudes plan but she would not give in. It's either find an opening or stay here forever/
Angelinia Riches, the guide and forest girlscout explorer, representing the girlscour Main Corps under the Vivian Girls, was appointed to led the lead the way, and it was their purpose to locate and ascend the highest hill closest to the region of flood, accompanied by all the soldier escort and the whole force of girls. The boys were to remain behind to guard the raft. and the boy prisoners. The expedition therefore left the raft that early afternoon. The first part of the afternoon was spent in studying the newly formed walls of smoke far to the north on the hillsides. Then Gertrude deter mined to to ascend to the top of the hill, and with this purpose in view she and the whole force set out at four oclocl. oclock.

They saw that the forest fires appeared at that distance as if the scene was created by a long line of very active volcanoes,, and yet the girls in going up to this location faced almost a thousand dangers. Yet for the sake of the success of their undertaking they spent some time in taking the most careful observations, even at the risk of the chanse meeting with the enemy or other perils or from the fire itself. Gertrude saw a huge mountain side all wreathed in in smoke and a full mountian also. While the girlscouts were on the hill watching all this, several violent explosions took place within the confines of the forest fires, and again and again their lives were indanger because to make it worse Glandelinian troopers observed them, and moved up the hill great strong winds started to blow, bruning bringing burning fumes tward them, and it was drouded the fires would come their way. The enemy in persue persueing them hurled granades which exploded close to them, and debris hurled by the explosions fell ame a fell about them in such quantities at times as to completely obscure their vision but the little girls being crack shots returned the fire of the enemy with effect, even though one particularly violent and near explosion of a granade covered the little girls from head to foot with mud. They still despite the efforts of the enemy to dislodge them still persisted in their study and observations however, and trise more were showered wity with debris and mud.
One granade failing to explode Jennie grasped it quickly ad hurled it back among the enemy causing the Glandelinian soldiers to scatter for safty. It got two of them however and killed a sergeant and his horse. Despite all this excitement Gertrude learned, as she had suspected, that within the view brought forth by her field glasses there were three seperate gigantic forest fires. O however their journey further up the hill was fully as perilous as the observation post. The enemy were trying to surround the hill firing with long range rifles, and still hurling shells or hand granades,, and from the forest fire came huge volumes of smoke. The girls were able to keep the enemy from progressing forward by th ir good peppering fire, Gertrude , made the important discovery that the northern branch of the fires at the head of the right of way, was moving fastest, and was connecting with one still further east, and that it burned with precisely the same fury as either, these south and further west.
And to the west was the phenomenon of the still raging floods. The forest fire territory was like an incandescent mass as if the world was turning into a mat molten planet. They decided to try to reach the highest summit of the hill, and they started for it, but only Gertrude, and three others reached it, as the others had to remain behind, especially the cavarly support who kept up firing on the enemy. They crossed Glen Ravine, which was now dry, full of huge rocks and boulders. They then climbed on up and reached the very summit tward five thirty in the late afternoon. They could see the blaze good from that heig height and it was looking down on a white hot furnace of a burning world. There was fire and smoke as far as eye could see. The conflagrations seemed to be heading northwestward from their point of view but the enormous sea like columns of smoke cut off the view in other directions.
Where smaller fires were burning they appeared like hundreds of great fumaroles, and still smaller clouds seemed as if steam being emitted from thousands of orifices. The ascent to the highest point was up a long and sharp incline, covered with loose dry earth. Every foot step dislodged the dry dust, and their footing had been most insecure. The wind being east, there came tward them great clouds of fumeous smoke pungeant and sulphurious from the fires through which the sunlight only swept at long intervals. The ascent was the most errifying experience in their lives, and for a time they had sat enveloped in darkness on the edge of a ravine waiting for the smoke clouds o to lift.
F9n finally as the heat drafted by the easterly winds became almost unbearable they retre retraced their steps down the slope of the hill and by dark reached their raft, where it had remained still guarded by the boys. The flood had taken a new stage, and their position there seemed dangerous. They moved on the raft that evening before dark till they reached a new part of the shore where it rose from the flood more steeper. They came to what was supposed to have been St Peters River, but were forced to return to their second landing place because there the flood was too thickly jammed with wreckage to get through just then. On shore they followed an old roadway to the point where the flood had sep a wepr into the town of Goldblatt, and from there retraced their steps back to their raft, harassed at intervals by Glandelinian snipers, but suffering no loss. The p spectacle in that town was appalling. There were numberless bodies of animals and humans floating in the water. When it grew dark came the great light of the distant con-flagration. All that evening the smoke had appeared yellow, black white and the various colores seen in fires.. They knew that this presaged a serious movement of the flames. They heard fearful detonations in that direction, and huge columns of black smoke, alive with lightning like flashes rose from some where in the forest fire. Sometin something o evidently exploded.. One column of smoke had ariz arisen to the height of ten miles It seemed and was lit up like fire itself from the fierce reflection of the massm masses of the raging fires beneath.
As theybwere cleaning their raft, and pitching their tents prepatory for the night retirment another ernormous exexplosion occured, and they began to fear the fire may be coming their way, that their place might be untenable, and therefore they abandoned the location, rather taking chanses out in the flood even in the dark of night than on such a dangerous shore. They'd rather stay close to shore at the base of a eruptive volcano than take the chances here. Therefore they set out, taking everything on the raft, and all the boys were ordered to keep a look out. Even Careless Jack was unusally careful this this., to the astonishment of all..........

From the frightful scenes that the darkness of night revealed, even while on the raging flood for a time some of the girlscouts became panic stricken, and would have from sheer fright leaped into the water if they had not been restrained. When they had abandoned the danger region they had taken all the camp equipage and bedding provisions and everything they could save. Then when they found a safe place to land, Gertrude, and Jennie Turner alone ascended another foot hill, and climbed then to the highest point of the tallest trees,and from that direction had a wonderful view of a great flamin flaming valley, which at that distance was like a most tremendous seething hell of terrible volcanic activity. They were finally driven back by a severe wind that was rising,and when they had descended nearly lost each other in the sudden smoke clouds that enveloped them.They were forced to return to wherethey had left their raft.Gertrude explained to her followers below that they had been enveloped in smoke clouds from the burning region and that they therefore did not see the a atual course of the blaze, but they all fully realized the danger the two girls had been in, and wondered at all why they had ascended a second time to investigate the conflagration, when it was evidently possible the only way to make progress was by the floods.

During the later part of the night Angeline Riches, Delores Mic-Hallister, and five other leaders started up to make an investigation themselves. One of the girls came down with a slight attack of mountain v fever on the ascent and two others became exhausted by exertion and heat.None of them managed to reach the top as it was frightfully enveloped in smoke. They rested them selves therefore for several hours, and came down.Beginning at the time of their resting themselves a great section of the fire came within they sight, and made a scene like a violent eruption of the whole [illegible]. An enormous column of ink black smoke rose from this part of the conflagration to a height estimated by the little girls at eight or maybe more miles, and then up spread rapidly into a huge mushroom shaped cloud, which appeared to have a diameter of eighty or a hundred miles, and which underneath was lighted to a molten iron red color by the glare of the flames underneath. The sight was most impressive, but there were no explosions this time.The whole region was shrouded in intense go gloom, like that which resembles erebus. The most notable phenomenon was that again during the night, the flood rose about five ft feet higher than usual and remained so for three hours, and then fell below its normal level as if it was receding, and then returned to its normal level.The cause of this rise and fall of the flood was however inexplicable.Thus it was the awful fires, and the continued threat of danger from both the fires and the flood seemed to offer no promise of conclusions.

Indeed for Gertrude Angeline and her officers, any for the whole force the proceeding week was to be a most strenuous one.Jean who was still suffer ing from her wounds, saw little of Gertrude——she and her officers had been too busy——and during the following morning Jean recieved reports from the some quarters bearing upon her movements and plans, [illegible] the floods and the devastating forestfires. Jennie Turner, the kind brave and yet grim leader of her own bunch was almost as enthusiastic as Gertrude herself.

"Miss Armburg" she remarked on one ocassion that morning "has a mar marvelous memory.She can finish all I indicate to her as soon as any one can expec ther to, and yet it is only a question of getting speed.We are nearing the city of Jessica I believe, and as she is the best leader in our force of girlscouts, and partly owing to the work and directing she had and is doing, partly to her natural gift of imagination, she is beyond all doubt the finest leader that has come into [illegible] since this dreadful disasterous war began.As for the raft, you can blindfold her, and she'll then even do much better directing than the best of others with with their eyes open.I really think Jean dear, th at our little plan will work out."

"Jennie Marie leader of [illegible] of my branches" said Jean who was sitting up in her cot and looking like ax a sack in her bandages said;

"I don't know what you, Angeline Riches and Gertrude are up to Jennie?"

"It's a dead secret" Jennie interpolated,

"But I hope you are not going to give Gertrude any d ideas of running the raft into Jessica, as having made successful our trip already it it would be a bad precedent if we were to get jammed in the wrecked city streets, as that city is literally floating.All ty the girls would want to [illegible] if that would be the plan and our plans for our progress would be [illegible]."

"Jean dear remain calm,I nor Gertrude have no intention of entering the city,we are heading for it no doubt as we can't avoid it, but we can turn aside.Besides she wants to see the floods work there."

"Not that any of us are not fit as regards the subject on that matter, for she and Gertrude, and others are; but because or followers have not gone through such dangerous stunts as that they might get scared and back out, and no one can go through the fixed periods we require..."

"Jean I'll stand by all the precedents."

"I never saw girlscout "generals" so changed, they go to Communion every morning when our Regimental priest says Mass for all of us, and while both she and Gertrude are the merriest, brightest girlscouts of our sect as well as the strictest in descipline, and also the most devout.Experienced in war sickness, and so forth we are often told seldoms improves any mor one.All the same since Gertrude and Angeline Riches entered the armies, she has been they have been unusual persons."

"I understand" said Jean. "Many others I heard had their comments to make."

"I have been with Gertrude for nearly two years." said Jennie, "and the cleanness, the good taste, the refinement she causes to be seen in our camp is simply astonishing.Little Joy keeps the littler scouts dressed u in uniforms like the children of the blood royal.She herself is a brave little saint, she says that god wants her to be one. Angeline Jennings herself, though rather impatient at times, and remarkably severe is a new girlscout.With the littler ones she is a young child again, and her laugh is as sweet and as simple as theirs too.The boys are brave little men,and assists the girls and even careless Jack Turns or whatever is name is is more watchful , and was splendid last night and through him he averted many a crash.But the bright, particular light is both Gertrude Angeline and Angeline Riches, and in the details of cooking they can it seems make things out of nothing.The meals for every me of us you know from what we all eat are splendid, and thanks to them, dainty too.After supper or at near the sounding for taps, all turn in save us officers and clean up, it is done with dispatch while we ourselves erect the tents, and then Angeline gets all the younger child scouts around Her and keeps them occupied, with games or listening to stories untill half past seven or so, and then comes bedtime for our youngest followers.Then seated around a big table with the lamp between them, us officers to go to work at or stuti studies.At nine Gertrude goes off to her investigations, which are long and perilous perilous,while Angeline con tinues her studies untill near eleven oclock.Jean, wealth,——millions of money could not buy our happiness despite our thrilling adventures,and Jane Malfert is sure splendid and Mildred sure admires her, is crazy about her, despite that she has to scold her sometimes for her recklessness and could not get along with out her.But we still feel our loss of those who had died.Our plan Jean is to avenge our loss."

"Thanks to you and Gertrude, Jennie."

"To you Jean.We would never have taken up the case if it had not been for your mishap and the desertion of the boy Jack Hans."

"Yes, but if you had followed my foolish advice, you'd have let the boy escape.Don't you remember when I was brought in that night when I advised you not to turn him over to Gertrude.!"

"Yes, but I didn't, I lost patience, and he was before her in short order."

"But look how you influenced all or girlscout leaders, show how the whole regiment turns to both Gertrude and Angeline. Angeline has had and still has a wonderful influence over those who goes out on reckless adventures. Many a night before we got here, as I have since learned even Mildred, dear Mildred Maxwell, gave up her studies, and her nights sleep just to keep poor foolish daredevil Jane Malfert interested and entertained to keep her from going out on some daredevil stunt.She knew by intuition it may be when her craze for such an adventure was on her, and then she dropped everything to care for her; to prevent her from going going."

"Another light" Jean exclaimed,"This will account, in part, at least for Mildreds apparent g neglect for studies."

"And that late evening your life was being despaired of." continued Jennie Turner,"she had gone out with a party of men and girlscouts, and surprised and ambushed a force of Gandelinians killing over two hundred and fifty fifty and putting the rest to route to revenge your mishap. She done that again the following morning with more fatal results, and succeeded in bring a score of prisoners home. None of us was never able to do that."

"In a word Miss Turner, Jane has or is a heroine"

"The "DAREDEVIL" of our Regiment."

"Yes."

Here Jean proceeded to tell J Jennie of our little plan——the secret only known known to three, now revealed to a fourth.Jennie was more enthusiastic than any one else.

"What a fine idea," she said. "Jean if I or any others can help you in any way, let us know——anything in our power."

"Thank you Jennie.What us girls will need is plenty of practice at the work we are to perform."

"Jennie, what do you think of this plan?My sister Minnie has charge of all our code work, and just now there is a great deal to be attended to.The wor work is heavy, and probably will be so for six weeks more. We could hire someone to help us.I am sure my sister would be delighted to have some one suggest it to her, and besides Minnie can gives us good advice."

Jennie reflected for a moment.

"How about holding a meeting with her at half past nine to night when we beach the raft.Would it suit you?"

"It would be just the right time.My sister gives her time mostly to making and studying codes, and just now is not able to get through her work. I am sure she will be delighted."

They were soon within sight of thecity of Jessica.Indeed behold a peaceful, partly surrounded by the sea of waters, [illegible] beautiful [illegible] the other [illegible] cities luxuriant vegetation of a Calverinia climate, happy as [illegible] at ease with the cities and towns in such a [illegible] spot as they had been, at ease [illegible] comforts of climate, and the natural products which made severe labor out of the question in these localities. Only the tallest buildings could be seen rising from the water, in low rows. Smaller buildings were entirely submerged or floating and everything was a chaos with great crowds of marooned peo ple on the roofs of the highest buildings.It looked like a Venice. As the festives approaching raft came withinhailing within hailing distance people on roofs started shouting at those on it, with warning gestures, and the boys who were paddling directed the raft shoreward to avoid the masses of floating wreckage. This city once sitting in picturesque beauty now was water logged.Trees that once shaded the beautiful [illegible] while paved streets, were gone, and all forms of life that had been cheerful, light-

A lighthearted was now a place of fe fear and sorrow .

Gertrude who was seeing to it that the raft avoided the floating houses and wreckage said-

"I know now for months, and which had come suddenly a thrall of black despair is cast over our happy country. Scores of our best cities have become, and are still great tombs, either burned, buried under wreckage or swept away by the great flood. Of so many hundreds of thousands of their women and children, all but few I supposed are either killed, drowned or burned to death. It looks as the angel of death has spread his pall over our whole Calverinian and Angelinian States, a fiery, explosive, and watery pall of horror, a fiery breath has even smitten them, and they either drowned, died suddenly or fall as dry stubble before the sweep of water, force of explosion, or flame.. Abbieann city we know if the lead in death. A whole nation is desolate. A world is fearsome and grief stricken. I wonder what in the world really happened. Such a country, people all of them, who live so good as to not even commit the slightest sin; whose children never quarrel, disobey, who are angels in deed and spirit, people who make an angel out of earth, and now its a reeking seething hell of fire and water. It can't CANT be an act of nature, an affliction sent by Heaven by natural disaster. I'd bet my life and soul a thousand times the enemy did this."

"And if so" said Delores [illegible], "where did the enemy secure the awful power of this evil that robbed of life so many millions of people in this disaster in so many cities and towns, in such an unusually short time, and explode Abbieann into the air."

"The reports on that is conflicting" said Jane Mellert. Some blamed verdure clad Mt Calverine, the familiar sentinel, and said that the volcano blew up, like a Krakatoa becoming a fiery vent through which earths earths artilleries blazed forth in most terrible volleys of molten projectiles lava masses, huge drifts of ashes, and clouds of flaming gases, and that earthquakes followed th the outbursts, destroying our Northern Dams in Bengalli State. When the in vestigators went to see, I read this one report in the papers)

"Mt Calverine having had no signs of activities. No. Volcanic eruptions anywhere. Something mysterious here."

"But where came the flood?"

"No one seems to know, even though nothing in its full path could withstand such a force of waters, no longer kindly Mother Earth benign benign in the beauty of summer time, but cruel relentless merciless alike to all. And yet it was not the fault of Mother earth. If it is proved that the enemy------"

"God help Glandelinia that's all."

"What do you mean?"

"All her armies will be massacred, for the armies of our own will be so aroused there will be no restraining them."

"As for now our country is no stranger to these destructive disasters." said Angeline Riches. I remember at Jennie Vivian Town at Delights Junction an explosion killed many soldiers, and threatened the city with destruction. Delights Junction was practically destroyed by the great and most terrible battle which raged over North Bend near the place known as the horrors of Bumbeam Creek, where eighteen million died on both sides.. This is a dreadful war indeed."

"Have you seen much of Abbieann?" asked Jane.

"Yes. Next to Vivian Hickey, Abbieann was the largest city in the world, yet the main railway, factory and commercial center of the whole State. It was a Chicago of Abbieannia. It was well built holy and prop prosperous, and never had a bad person it it. It was devided into two parts, known as the lower and the upper towns. The lower town was on the upper and lower shores of Lake Angeline, and very great and a great summer and winter resort. This part sank down into the lake and river from the concussion. The upper town was bigger still more handsome, healthier, and handsomely laid out. There were in the whole city, subways, great surface lines, elevated lines and thousands of railway lines entered and left. Catholic schools and churches were countless, everything was Catholic in atmosphere. It had a population of about 34,567,000 people. It was a connecting branch with Calverine and Vivian Hickey. Mt. Calverine the largest of the groups of volcanic [illegible] in Calverinia, is about 14,567 high. It had long been inactive as a volcano, although five months ago it did threaten activity and started into a violent eruption which did no harm but caused a great sight. It is eighty miles northwest of Abbieann, and too far to do any harm if she even went like Krakatoa. The city would only have had a blizzard of ashes. The city had its mayor and aldermen and so forth. The mountain ous interior beyond the city is torn and gashed as investigators say by the force of the mysterious disturbance, but no sign of there having been any volcanic activity. The city if all its houses had been occupied, and there were many not rented could have held a population of one hundred and seventy five million and still have room, yet the population that was there, were divided, 10,000,000 were Abbieannians and the rest Abbieannians. There were some forigners there of whom 10,000 were Spanish, 10,000 [illegible] English, and 150,000 French. But all were good people and therefore no one can account for the cause of the dis aster. Surely the enemy is suspected."

"Abbieann has two interesting claims to great distinction in that, Emperor Vivian was born there, and that also several of the Vivian Girl Princesses, and a great number of our priests, bishops, and cardinals. In Abbieann there was a two hundred foot statue of the Virgin and the Holy Child on the elevated portion. They say it still stands."

"I can tell you our plan" said Gertrude.

"What was it?"

"Suggest to the Vivian Girls to sent some one who is an expert to inves tigate and find the cause of the disaster."

"That's impossible."

"No it aint."

"Well if they'll do it we'll try it. But its such an unusual suggestion that don't blame me if they get sore."

. "They won't get sore. I'll try it myself when we reach the lines."

These girlscouts however were right, for Gertrude had seen to it that her best reliable leaders were duly in knowledge of the secret, and Angeline Jennings said that the plan would be the solving of a difficulty, which had been growing each day and besides that the Vivian Girls had been planning this right along, and that no doubt they were impatiently waiting for them. During the trip down the flood every boy this time was pressed into - Serb service. the point they wishing to land being about five miles from the flood swept city, and at the suggestion of Angeline Riches, the raft was kept straight ahead, to avoid wreckage and the town. The secret circle by this time had grown wider , still remaining the secret. Before this Angeline Riches had once referred to the efforts of the others, who had offered to help her in getting the raft through the dangerous territory..........

One of the girlscouts Florence Desmond, was a good leader on the directing of these boys. [illegible] for six years with one of the great [illegible] Girlscout Centers of the mobilization camps at [illegible] Agathia , Florence was not only an expert at directing rafts, and leading girls but was also familiar with a variety of other drills and discipline, and with these devices for method and order made use of in girlscout work. It was Angeline Riches who suggested making Florence acquainted with the great secret/

"You see Gertrude, she's been so good to me, and helped me a whole lot. It it is to her I owe my success in my knowledge of being a guide. And she has always been so very kind, and besides if she knows of your [illegible], she will do anything to help. If we can find proof of this disaster and Glandelinia is responsible, then we'll never [illegible] She knows so much, and she has a gir gift for com municating knowledge."

"A capital suggestion, Angeline. She is often free from three to four in the afternoon, and I know she will be only too glad to give you hints outside of Mildred Maxwell's matter which will be of great help to you."

"And Gertrude" continued Angeline, taking out a little book" look at this."

"It had the appearance of a savings accountbook, and it it were several disguised plans of a mysterious nature.. Gertrude opened. There was the record of the wars & two worst floods in it, that of the Lake Folicia horror of November 19 1912 and of the horrors at Abbieann.

"Good gracious" Gertrude said. "What's this???"

"Some of my plans I wished to suggest to Violet, and her sisters... Gertrude... I'm sending the plans in as fast as it is possible, and Delores [illegible] helps me. We get along nicely so far, though it is not yet so finished. Of course we have been helped a good deal, and we are all well provided with camp i or sponging outfits, too, especially shoes. I wonder if they'll do it."

"Capital" Gertrude exclaimed. "You may tell the secret to Florence."

There are many generous whole souled devoted girls and boys in the scout regiments, and it had been Gertrudes happy for fortune during this unusual difficult adventure to meet with a goodly number of them, trough though of course having a meeting also with one coward, and one careless boy, the [illegible] the latter was getting "dress" in for carefulness. Of those however of the real good ones Florence, Angeline and many other leaders whose names are already known were no means the least, and Mary Stanck seemed the better of them. She had taken many girlscouts under her in hand, and helped Angeline Riches with [illegible]

[illegible] in various lines of girlscout business. With the permission of [illegible] they liberated too.

[illegible] beginning with [illegible] leaders was [illegible] by great enthusiasm, [illegible] and love. Jean especially won the hearts of all. On this particular day when the raft was slowly passing the ruins of Jessica, Jean still did not get out of bed. She was not ill, Gertrude informed the rest, she would not get out of bed yet. In fact the doctor did not say she would. The cause of her condition, Gertrude added, was a [illegible]

"How long asked Mildred Maxwell, "she though safely was thank God home" How long [illegible] Gertrude made answer; "Then all will be [illegible]."

[illegible] a few days before had [illegible] descriptio [illegible] separate [illegible] given a holiday.

[illegible] Angeline Riches, being only [illegible] this girlscouts regiment however was all the greatest [illegible] Gertrude's chances to bring the raft through the flood came to [illegible] were vastly improved by the publicity given her abilities.

That early afternoon when they landed [illegible] one of the persons who rode up to them [illegible] Angelinian Scout, a woman, the finest kind of person, Gertrude afterwards ever knew, and the humblest woman, who had ever [illegible] and way after that [illegible] they were good friends for life. [illegible] girlscouts to her, was her exceeding kindness, [illegible] to every one she knew. [illegible] loved to serve under her. She loved to look out for their interests. It had struck Gertrude that her attitude toward those working under her was Christ like...

"Miss Gertrude" she said "I come to congratulate you on the honor won for your command by your best girlscout leaders."

"Thank you Mrs [illegible]. Their success has made me, and all the others very happy and will soon enable us to reach our destination. But you have a wrong detail. Only two are the best ones here."

"Are there any boys going by the name of Penrod."?

"No he is with the army under Emperor Vivien, and serves the Vivien Girls. Girl Princesses. Angeline Riches is our main leader. I'm next in command."

"Indeed. Why that is astonishing. Let me congratulate you again."

[illegible]

"Yes, but then there is a strange [illegible] in the [illegible] of this flood may mainly because of the fires. None of us can obtain the chance to reach Emperor Viviens army, and traveling by flood is so slow and hazardous."

"And you must need a to reach there!"

"Yes"

"How is your superior in guardianship, and in acting as a guide.?"

"Good! far beyond the average. She is a great leader for her age, and speaks excellently. She knows her" Dickens, and Thackeray. In everything she do does nothing can excell. She knows the country like a book."

"Miss Aronburg, you interest me more than you imagine. How about her horse-back riding, and marksmanship."

"She is so good that Vivien, [illegible] would not hesitate to send her to any point of the country and expect her return at any time. The main stickup for her just now is this flood."

"Excuse me Miss Aronburg, I'm afraid I may seem bold but could I see the girlscout for a few minutes."

"Certainly, it will be a pleasure, if she is not busy. I'll have to phone her."

She lifted up the reciever and asked for the number.

"I wished to speak to Angeline Riches please! Who!! said Angeline Riches" in answer for she was the one at the phone.

This is Gertrude speaking. There's some one who wishes to speak to you. Can you come?"

"But Gertrude I can't come down for every Tom, Dick and Harry that wishes to see me. [illegible] busy as the dickens. I just came back from investigating the fire and I'm solving a problem."

"It is a new comer a some woman who wishes to see you. Mrs Mina Hansenia."

"Why what [illegible] well I'll be down as soon as I can. What is she?"

"She's a scout leader. It's important."

"All right I'll be there."

Angeline Riches presently entered. She was apparently radiant over some success, the more so as she knew that her own triumph was a victory for her followers. How different from the girlscout of two years ago. Health Happiness and the joyful excitement for adventure [illegible] marked her features. She was well developed for her years, yet at first as she came in she looked annoyed. Mrs Hansenia however in her gentle and cordial way, quickly made Angeline quickly at home with her. She said very little, but her questions were so cleverly put that Angeline within [illegible] minutes gave both the woman and Gertrude a very fair idea of her knowledge of scout work and leadership. Mrs Hansenia possibly because she was both a military scout, and was also literary and scientific, showed a great skill in questioning which Gertrude and even Angeline could not help but admire. For many indeed it is certainly a great pleasure to study clever persons in action, and so tactfully did she proceed, that Angeline Riches did not in the least suspect that she was being examined by a great woman scout, who had specialized in drawing out the knowledge of little girl and boyscouts, and the li[illegible] like...

Finally Angeline Riches said-

"I have to be going, or I won't be able to proceed. Good bye Mrs Hansenia I am very pleased to have met you, and I hope we shall see each other again" said she and she left the tent with of course her great curtsy.

"Miss Aronburg, pardon me I'm also taking up your time."

[illegible]

[illegible] but could you give me something, of that girlscouts family history, that is if you know anything of it."

"[illegible] indeed." Gertrude said......

"Miss Aronburg," said Mrs Hansenia, after Gertrude had told her the main facts "I think that God and His Blessed Mother sent me here this morning. I was going along, westward on [illegible] Creek, which I found ten times wider than it should [illegible] in passing from there to [illegible] the only stream not flooded, I recalled that you and Angeline Riches were in this neighborhood with your respective commands. I felt an impulse to call on you for a few minutes---you know I have not been within a camp of girlscouts within two years. Reason however ruled out impulse. Reason seemed to have said "you have no business there and the chief girlscout leaders must be busy. Don't bother them now." I was about to abandon the idea when suddenly there flashed through my memory a news item concerning the efforts of you girlscouts to reach Emperor Viviens army. I've always been interested in adventures. In fact I've been on examining boards for such investigations these last twenty nine years.

"And you are sure considered an expert." Gertrude [illegible] ventured to say.

"No better than the others, Gertrude, only I am always so anxious to find out what young girlscouts know and if necessary to help them in their plans."

"I can see that right now." Gertrude said..

"Some of those who do investigate and examine are much cleverer than I" continued Mrs Hansiena simply, "and they too always try to find out for good purposes what really brought on this awful flood disaster. That is some thing that people even don't know. Yet d that does not seem hard. We are all badly ignorant in many ways. Why Miss Aronburg, if you were to go at me in that direction you could keep me making professions of ignorance for the next three weeks."

And this Gertrude reflected, from the best informed woman scout, that

ever was known, a woman scout moreover, who in her own line of research was never so exceeded.

"But to return to our conversation, I came here to congratulate you, and I find a little girlscout leader here, good as gold., refined., frank, and with I believe sincerely just the qualifications you are looking for."

"What's that?" Gertrude said.

"Miss Aronburg you know she is a great scout, and knows the country well don't you?"

"I have heard and seen lots about her------and with great pleasure, Mrs Hansenia."

"Thank you Miss Aronburg" Well the situation is getting bad, and its time for the whole state as it seems to [illegible] whether the armies [illegible] [illegible] Angelinia, you know him well a fighter, but they are too far away just now to lend us any aid. As I intend to [illegible] [illegible] like a reinforcing force to be with, and usually when I'm out alone like this, taking important messages, taking the lay of the floods, investigating the [illegible] of the fires, and doing all kinds of scientific work I get pretty [illegible] are brave."

"Good gracious" Gertrude exclaimed.

"That little girlscout leader of yours, from what I have seen of her, and from what you have told me, could in spite of her age, but just the sort to bring us all through this adventure yet. She has the knowledge of all good scouts, and she even has literary sense. I've recieved much information about her from many generals, and even from the Princesses, and she cannot be beat."

"I am not as great as scout as most of them are Mrs Hansenia, but it has often struck me that Angeline Riches has in her the stuff, that makes the [illegible] usually keep out of her way, especially those that know her. You [illegible]"

"Sure so Miss Aronburg, you certainly are right, Miss and if we can [illegible] always keep her with us, [illegible] will be soon a sorry nation. No still some day settle a [illegible] question. And the nation shall be very grateful to her."

"Not so grateful, Mrs Hansenia as I am to her. [illegible] The Vivien Girls love her as if she was one of their [illegible]

[illegible] girlscout leader free yet. She can't get here if she's called a second time [illegible] I'll call her again."

"Hello give me Miss Riches [illegible]"

"Hello [illegible] did you say you [illegible]"

[illegible] Gertrude, repeated her request, [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] get to people are threatened by the flood."

[illegible] Hansenia, [illegible] the number and [illegible]

[illegible]

I suppose [illegible]

[illegible] answered [illegible]

[illegible] a moment later [illegible]

time that Mrs Hansenia wished to see her."

"All right Gertrude, I'm coming" and she hung up the reciever.

[illegible] the storm I suppose, [illegible]

[illegible] girlscouts [illegible]

[illegible] will [illegible]

[illegible] under her [illegible] to say that I know of no girlscout [illegible] in the whole camp to [illegible] Emperor Vivien would so much trust [illegible] Riches."

"No one [illegible] paid her a nicer compliment. All I can say is that she always acts as to [illegible]"

[illegible] appeared with a bundle of papers which she had brought with her.

Mrs Hansenia went over several papers very slowly, and carefully, while Angeline Riches waited with a thrill of expectancy. Her face, as she went from sheet to sheet brightened. At the twelfth, she stopped.

"There is no need for us to go further...."she said."Miss Richee I congratulate you too.You know how to make plans better than I do, your code making a little better than mine, is very good, and your figuring excellent.You girl girlscout leaders can go through anything if you try, and if you are worth everything to the regiments of girlscouts you are worth that to the whole nation too. What do you say to that Miss Richee,you are believed to be the [illegible] of all, and I [illegible] with Miss [illegible] to help you all through so you'll easily reach the christian lines to where you are going going going."

Angeline Richee looked at Gertrude, and then at Mrs Hensenia. She had grown very pale.Suddenly she rushed to Ge t Gertrudes side.

"Oh Gertrude"she cried, and pillowed her head upon her arm. gently and [illegible] her to a stool, Gertrude accompanied the [illegible] to the outside.

"[illegible] little [illegible] of her---Oh Miss [illegible]---"she said in low [illegible] [illegible] of your complete confidence in you [illegible] her [illegible] she has just [illegible] told me that in addition to her literary and military knowledge, her unusual and splendid memory, her quickness in taking in every thing that goes on, she has in spite of her [illegible] years, the sweetness, the innocence the delicate purity of a little child,G rtrude how do you girlscouts triumph over such awful scenes here."?

"For the answer to that Mrs Hensenia, you must go to o Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.All of us girls Recieve Christ every morning in Holy Communion.

"God bless you all and keep you all brave, innocent, and bright."

Later that same day Gertrude was sitting on her horse at eight oclock A.M. Darkness hardly had not let up to any comfortable degree, because the sky overhead was shadowed thick with smoke. Gertrude was dressed in camp working attire, and was waiting for an expected visitor, and thus waiting mediated.

Many things had happened since Jean had started on the road to recovery from her wounds. Jenny Jenkins had lost on the [illegible] a [illegible] of her provisions because of an encounter with some of the Glandelinians early that morning. [illegible] speaking for that "little wildcat" it was no loss at all, she had with her at the time her Abyssinkilian soldier guides about fifty of them, and her "spitfire" girls, with the usual result, the Glandelinian attackers were taking care of their one hundred wounded, and burying their thirty five dead, their main leader included.There had been with this girlscout Jenny Jenkin [illegible] her three brothers, and an elder sister all under her, who bade fair to preserve the tradition of her younger sister, in the way of showing Glandelinians what it is to attack "children" they don't know anything about. As usual [illegible] to say there were [illegible] in her company at the time, six or [illegible] seven boyscouts, "Reckless Jane" [illegible] had been made known to the sorrow of these Glandelinian [illegible], wherever they went by a [illegible] atmosphere of girlscout gunpowder and, well something very good and [illegible] thanks to the thoughtfulness of "Reckless Jane" they had [illegible] the loss of their provisions, as Jane recently had "celebrated" the shooting of little jean, in terms of "pretty little ambush" only it was still more successful this time, and the provisions had been then retaken, besides plenty of supplies from the enemy, and two magnificent horses, a gold edge sabre belonging to the fallen officer, and a number of [illegible] cartride belts and several good pistols. [illegible] they Glandelinians when [illegible] being [illegible] frightened mice.How the two girls brought it about, no one knows, but somehow Ja ne it about n no one knows, but somehow Jane, secured plenty, and brought Jenny Jenkins to her own camp to count the spoils. Jenny Jenkins is the leader of One hung hundred good strong girlscouts, and fifty or more soldiers, ,she is clean, regular at her duties, and gives promises of growing up someday a credit to the country who gave this [illegible] her first home [illegible] came from a foriegn country with her parents [illegible] was a member of the Dominic she had been promoted several times, and she had always been honest and straight forward to the [illegible], and belonged to the perfect of the St Agnes sodality a society all girlscouts belong, also union of the Holy Name society the [illegible] so great was her reputation for bravery and holiness holiness, that she was elected to the office by practically a unanimous vote of the thousands of members. Black haired, black eyed, and yet almost having the vivacity of [illegible] in many ways. Another thing was the following letter from the Vivian girls [illegible] this-

"Dear Gertrude Angeline, I've recieved word from my sisters, that you Angeline Richee, and your followers are blocked by the flood, and are greatly worried about you and the others, as is [illegible] your [illegible] sister, and besides she is [illegible] at her hardest work, and so we don't have much time. We go to [illegible] each day [illegible] friend Angeline [illegible] her [illegible] hasten [illegible] fire and flood. If you find it impossible to [illegible] all, notify us by telegraph, and in the meantime we are going to continue to do our best to be the same good righteous brave little Princesses we have always been.

"Your true and loving friends.
"The Darlings of
the Nation."

All these things ---and many others of special interest but too many to relate here---was Gertrude mediating upon with a thankful thrilled heart, when her aide-de-camp riding p informed her that there was a strange boyscout in her tent who wanted to see her right away.

Gertrude of course then rode back to her tent. The strange boyscout arose respectfully as Gertrude entered.He was indeed a striking figure, the size of a thirteen year old boy, clear of eye, ruddy of cheekand blonde or half golden hair. It was hard for Gertrude, though she had been expecting him, having recieved a message from Violet and her sisters that he was coming,) to recognize in the finely uniformed boy, Glandelinia's old trouble, Master Schoefield Penrod. He had come all the way to directed the girls to Emperor Vivians lines. lines

"So its you, Penrod" Gertrude exclaimed, grasping his hand.

"Yes Miss Gertrude, here I am nearly two years older since you saw me last, but I hope a better learned boyscout leader.I am better and stronger now then I have been any time since General Greathead got me into the ranks, and with the help of God and his blessed Mother, I am going for the sake of our cause to aid the Vivian Girls in their purpose.Probably late in August if as soon as you can arrive with me they are going to investigate the explosion mystery at Abbiesan."

"I never imagined" Gertrude said"You could look so well, I know their plan and that is why they wished the return of Jennie."

"Oh Gertrude, what a fool, what a beast Glandelinia has has been.These two years of the war have been years of horror.I've had my own struggles, to get through, and must say getting to you is g easier than getting back.it's fifty mil miles from Evangeline at Claire, and since I left Emperor Vivians army I've seen nothing but flood and fire."

"Are you satisfied that we can conquer this flood and fire and get there, surely?"

"I'm afraid to say yes Gertrude, but before I leave this tent, I'm going to take an oath, never to abandon the purpose until I succeed."

"Penrod"said Gertrude, "I believe we shall yet win our fight."

"So long as we g don't go through the fire zone too much we [illegible], th and therefore we can make it. But gertrude its the only way I did it, though it was traveling through Purgatory.The fire is gone of course, and we can follow its its wake.But its the only way.Further on the flood is impossible to travel even by the strongest boat, and your raft will be jammed so you'll never get to the [illegible]."

"And do you think we can feel fit for that journey through the burned waste, in the wake of the fire?"

"As you were traveling now.The Gertrude, violet, and her sisters told me we got to wait a while, and they not knowing the extent of the flood are now sorry they sent Angeline and others out into that sort of work to watch the movements of Inner Hylatus, and for the past three months, they have been plugging hard at their studies, to discover means to investigate the disasters cause, As you know many wrote it was of nature.But I don't believe it, and neighter do they.The Scientific investigators sent by them were good, Gertrude, they were, and though you may not believe it refined, and they brought back written and photographed proofs that the horrors at Abbiesan, and through out Bengall and other states were not caused by any Volcanic activity."

"I do believe it.I suspect the enemy right along along ."

"When I had to leave the christian lines under Emperor Vivians, I felt as if I was the black sheep of the family.It took me eighteen days to make this journey, and often I happened to get in with some very bad Glandelinians, and escaped them as if by miracles, and often I had to pull myself through the burning muck left by passing forest fires.It's a fact Gertrude I believe that I actually cultivated my taste for adventures.My coming here so successfully has given me a chance to lead you all through, and some day please God once that I get back there we'll all soon learn that riddle of the Abbiesan explosion, and the cause of the floods. Since coming here, I've been ashamed to think of all I've seen...."

"No matter how long it will take us this being the 20th of july now," Gertrude commented, violet, and her sisters will be proud of you, when they know you have aided us, and gave Angeline Richee such assistance."

"Gertrude I've been bursting to ask how she and Jennie Turner and the others are?"

"Don't you know?"

"For over a month since they left to spy on Hylatus I've heard nothing. Angeline Richee I know is doing some sort of work, but she has not been able to give me any details.Once she telegraphed me not to worry,that she and all her force are well provided for.I often wondered how.........."

The flood and forest fire has had its way in hampering news and messages except by costly wireless telegraph, and most of us are kept in ignorance of many things of the [illegible] which [illegible] everything seems to cause [illegible] however you will know all, [illegible] and find Angeline Richee together.

"First Gertrude, let me make my solemn and bi binding promise to God."

Gertrude was no prophetess, but she dared to predict to her followers afterwards that Penrod would be true to that promise unto death.Together through the [illegible] and smoke produced by the distant fires, they rode down as far as the next company street.Gertrude hailed a boyscout.

"Where's all this smoke coming from boy?"

"What smoke?"

"The smoke that is coming through the camp stupid.Can't you see it?" !

"Not [illegible]."

"Come"said she to Penrod,"We are only wasting time, and giving spurs to her horse and making some remarks about people who have too many"wheels"in their heads, she and Penrod continued on till they came to a roadway.Penrod would have went on but Gertrude stopped him saying:

"We turn North here."

"Are we not going to Angeline Nickess headquarters tent?"
"Yes but she's not at present in that locality. She is with Delores and her sister."
"Where is that?"
"In a little house near a raft. Angeline set her [illegible] heart on it, then—"
"When the flood threatened to overwhelm us, God forbid this happening again. But Gertrude how did she [illegible] it."
"All in good time" she [illegible].
They arrived shortly at a little two story house near where the raft was beached. Though it was morning there was lights in every window, and as they put foot on the steps, the door was thrown open, and there, framed in the doorway, stood [illegible] the radiant Angeline Nickess [illegible] Gertrude, with outstretched arms [illegible] as she saw him with Gertrude [illegible] she cried— joy was the note of that cry [illegible] and sprang into his arms. Then forth from every corner of the room, rushed [illegible] and many other leaders of the girlscouts, and all were [illegible] Gertrude and the boy with [illegible] hugging and kissing, and laughter [illegible] all circumstances [illegible] made Gertrude rub her eyes.

Never since they were temporarily encamped here did any one ever witness such a scene of joy. Outside of all this to Gertrude, Angeline herself [illegible] a [illegible], a heart breaking [illegible], but this did not stop their [illegible] Penrod was a devoted boyscout, and one by one holding them at arms length, the boy in a veritable transport of joy gazed upon Angeline Nickess and the others. He looked and saw that they were bright, and healthy and happy. [illegible] sinking back upon a chair he covered his eyes with his hands, for happiness had unmanned him.

"Now you know the boyscout I used to talk to you about" whispered radiant Delores. "He's a good boy, big and strong, with the bravest and the kindest of [illegible]"

"And so Delores, he will remain to the end. I feel sure that from now on he [illegible] [illegible], and that girlscout is willing to [illegible] and that she also adds that while [illegible] is supposed to be [illegible] for the awful disasters we are [illegible], and for this excess [illegible] in the beginning, for the last three weeks, the trouble for us [illegible] Penrod [illegible]."

[illegible] who had slipped from the room now returned with [illegible] and with them the party of girlscout [illegible]

[illegible] said Penrod, after a cordial exchange of greetings [illegible] the material to make such a huge and magnificent raft. [illegible] Gertrude made haste to answer [illegible]

[illegible] and the rest all came in a body, and amidst chatter and laughter [illegible] the raft with great [illegible] though simple in the [illegible] was an unusual raft, timbers and logs could [illegible]

"[illegible] like to know who that fairy [illegible]" [illegible] Penrod.
"[illegible]" Gertrude said, pointing to Angeline [illegible]
Penrod heard for the first time [illegible] and he looked surprised [illegible] the story of Angeline Nickess success in traveling the flood [illegible] he looked, as if he could not make anything of it [illegible] Angeline, by what seemed the special providence of God, had [illegible] decided to join in the plan of the Vivian Girls [illegible] and when finally Gertrude told him that the [illegible] who though still wrapped in bandages [illegible] threw herself at his feet [illegible] with simple, unaffected love, was not going to be a great scout [illegible] he heard how she had been wounded by Glandelinian [illegible] by [illegible] he looked down on her [illegible] of which [illegible] she made [illegible] God and His Blessed Mother [illegible] so good to us [illegible]

[illegible] interrupted Angeline Nickess "You are invited to our party which [illegible] before going on our journey.
[illegible] my dearest friends [illegible]
[illegible] my birthday party, I'm eleven years old to day, and no girl [illegible] happier on her birthday than I do [illegible]

[illegible]

Mary Stanck, the Jennings sisters, Penrod and Gertrude Angeline because duty [illegible] beckoned them, took their leave. Indeed Angeline Nickess was busy at this time in entertaining the rest of the girlscouts. As the door closed upon the departing [illegible], they were all filled with a sense of thanksgiving.
"[illegible] much for our efforts" Gertrude said.
"[illegible] have done as well as her Gertrude," said Mary.
"[illegible] all, I [illegible], sometimes gave [illegible]" Angeline Jennings and her two sisters [illegible] protested. "Delores added [illegible] don't work in our games, and we find all our scouting work rather hard, full of difficulties, miseries, and often extremely dangerous. But even from a natural point of view, the joy [illegible] has given us makes up for any number of [illegible] failures.
"In this way we plant and we also, sow and reap," Gertrude commented. "But it is God who gives the increase."
[illegible] a cheerful, silvery call caused Gertrude and her followers to turn around. The door of the cabin near the raft was open, and out on the step stood Angeline Nickess, holding in her little hands the birthday cake, the [illegible] candles burning brightly. Behind her, they could see, grouped together with arms around each others shoulders, [illegible] faces, the light of the new rising sun fell full upon the smiling happy face of Angeline, and [illegible] thinning smoke clouds wrapped her about as in a veil.
"[illegible] bye, good brave" she cried.
"[illegible]" cried Delores, "Look, did you ever see so pretty a picture—that [illegible] of girls, and the face of Angeline Nickess, the sweetest child [illegible] that ever drew breath, standing out in all its loveliness, and the [illegible] rolling about her. Her name Nickess [illegible] is more than justified."
"[illegible]," said Gertrude.
During this time, while these events had been going on this day of really July [illegible], which they thought was the [illegible] that the forest fires [illegible] holding them back more than the flood had done something which they [illegible] to know. Their boyscout Percival Ryan was the one who brought in the report. It was just before eight o'clock on this morning, it probably being a Thursday July [illegible] 1912, that the forest fires first checked by a large open [illegible] finally bursts its bonds or their bounds, and bore destruction to the ill fated, a city of St [illegible] within three or four hours it was reported that nearly fifteen thousand persons mostly fugitives or those caught [illegible] in their blazing homes were burned to death, and the one hundred thousand survivors without having chance to even save the smallest of their belongings [illegible] precipitately to large openings or to points by railroad where there were no trees, and the smouldering ruins of the city were heaped with dead in [illegible] bodies buried in the smouldering ashes, that [illegible] left of all building buildings by the sea of flames. Within half a day the city itself had disappeared, in a whirling ocean of flame, which from the burning forests enveloped it on three sides almost at once, though for some days afterwards the inflammable [illegible] of the buildings continued to burn, until was [illegible] [illegible], while the forest fire went raging madly onward. This city was [illegible] and the conflagration continued to roll and surge onward, engulfing everything before it.

CHAPTER SIX.

FOREST FIRES AND TERRIFIC HEAT MOWS MULTITUDES OF LIFE.
BURSTS OF FLAME COMPLETE THE RUIN.
CARELESS JACK AGAIN. IN WHICH JACK BY A SERIES OF MISHAPS, BRINGS DOWN THE WRATH OF SOME OF THE GIRLSCOUT LEADERS, IN SUCH WISE, THAT THE GIRLSCOUTS FOR FEAR OF SOMETHING WRONG DISCRETELY TELLS WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, WHAT PUNITION WAS ADMINISTERED. FEW LEFT TO TELL THE TALE OF THE MORNINGS FIRE DISASTER.

St Francis city was destroyed not by the flood as some had supposed but by the tremendous fire, and the many people perished even on flight by the all consuming blast of suffocating burning heat waves borne toward them by the fiercest fire hurricane ever recorded. Death came to hundreds of fleeing fugitives instantly. And it was reported that it was not a matter of hours or minutes. It was a matter of seconds for many. They did not actually burn to death, for they died by breathing the terrific heat, and they were burned afterwards. However a hundred thousand persons of the city had some ample time to escape but those caught or overcome by the terrific hot winds did not hardly live long enough to take two steps toward escape, and these forest fire horrors therefore will go on record as the most astonishing in the history of all true or fabled catastrophes combined.

Gertrude said, when she heard of the disaster:

"The strange manner of the annihilation of this city, and the overwhelming and burning to death of so many of its inhabitants will always be strangely unique in the whole history of the world. I cannot tell which is worst, the fire or this flood, but this disasters shows we cannot go by any other road than by flood. The forest fires in the west were not a parallel, for those forest only were eaten up by demoniac streams or waves of fire, but towns escaped. Where this city of St Francis now stands or once stood, there is not even a solid building down. Many cities and towns are reported in a danger. All our forests will be gone from the earth. Why in heavens name don't it rain?"

"Yes" said Dolores, "I've heard that the hold half dead victims, who escaped the conflagration and were brought away by freight trains, talked of a wall of flame driven forward at express train speed by a hurricane of these raging hot, that had come upon them. That phrase was no figure of speech, but a literal statement of what happened. The enemy cannot win their battles, they are trying to whip us by fire and water. Next I suppose they'll try to get earthquakes, volcanoes, and storms to help them."

"Yes and if you could only see what I got a glimpse of" said Percy. "When the first small rescue parties reached the scene, they be found bodies lying in the streets of the burning burning city or in the smouldering forests, or rather on the ground where the trees once were, for in many places it was or is impossible to trace the difference between smouldering ground, and the places where trees once stood, the same in the city, you cannot hardly trace the line between streets and building sites, and no doubt to many death may have come so suddenly that the looks of fear and horror on the faces did not have time to even change."

"I heard that many were found dead, even out of the path of the fire." said Angeline Ichee. "What does that mean?"

"That does not mean death by burning I suppose. Were the bodies charred or half consumed?"

"Not there no."

"Then no one can account for it, for it doesn't mean suffocation for suffocation in closets can only mean then that the path of burning [illegible] were from such dreadful high leaping flames borne by strong winds into which the whole district was plunged effected the victims like a terribly virulent poison, poison when the first whiff of the heat fumes entered their lungs. Now far away from the fire were they found?"

"About three miles. There were many of the victims who were found [illegible] and died with their hands to their mouths. That [illegible] motion of the arm was probably the only one they had the chance to make before the heat approached them in death, for their clothing was found burned [illegible] were found who had fallen on their faces, and one had died with their lips pressed to the earth. They probably did not have much time to run before that hurricane, no time even to cry out, no time to even breathe a prayer."

"They say it was as if St Francis had been just dipped into Hell and then set out to cool" said Percy. "I saw some distance off the fires racing off toward the straight north, and the flames were terrifically high. The fire went onward, but that made no difference, for in the city and throughout the territory all life was destroyed, what became of the other one hundred thousand no one knows."

"I hope they all escaped."

"Every combustible thing in the city was burned. Animal bodies, full of moisture, glowed a long while, and then remained charred wrecks. Wood and

other easily combustible things burned to ashes and it is said the walls of brick buildings fairly melted down. But on the ground far outside the city an amidst heaps of white hot forest debris lay many of the bodies of persons who had been overtaken by the madly rushing flames. Nothing is left of the city."

"And that too barricades our way by land entirely for Evangeline St Claire" said Mildred.

"I should say so" again said Percy. "That this city, and the strip of coast along this flood to the north and south of it were burned in a day was probably due to the fierce speed of the conflagration, though the direction of the wind may have had something to do with it. In this way one can understand why we do not be touched by the fire. We are out of the pathway of the conflagration, as it advanced east. I've seen from bulletin reports that for days this after awful fire, beginning to come up in this locality immediately after the first signs of it threatening now Evangeline continued advancing on toward us, or past us, clouding the sky in smoke like night. The heat of the flames ignited foliage on the other side of ravines, the flames had either crossed or followed river courses, and made their way to the main forests of southeastern Calverinia. They have committed greater destruction than any one can conceive, but most of the inhabitants I hope so it is said, is true, that they had had some chance of escape, but could save nothing. From Tuma river, to Grande Rio, Malaibos, and Grande [illegible] directly across Evangeline St Claire river though it is flooded, the fire was rushing on. The flood made the river a mile across, and that did not check the flames hurled forward by the winds. The heat boiled the rivers, and small lakes dried up or turned into steam. The forest fire fighters, thousands of them cannot check it, and they say the surroundings are so terrible that many persons had actually died of fright."

"Jack."

There came no answer.

"Jack, Jack for goodness sake you sleepy head—don't you hear me? Get up this moment sir. Do you think that this tent is a hotel out in the wilderness? Everyone is ready to be on the move but yourself, and a fire threatening us. Get up do you hear."?

Mildred Maxwell, Jack Sanders superior, stood without the entrance of Jacks tent. She paused a moment, partly to gain her breath—(having walked quite three Company streets to arouse Jack, and partly to await some reply from the still sleeping boy. It was past nine oclock, Angeline Ichees party more distant off was concluding and the whole crew were ready to resume the trip on the raft. The silence however, was simply emphasised by the swish swash of the waters near by.

"Jack" she resumed at length in a higher key "do you hear me. It's past nine oclock. What's the matter with you this morning."?

Her strained ears caught the dull sound as if of some one turning lazily in his bed. "Now as you are awake, sir jump right up, and dress. We are going."

There only came a yawning sound from the room.

"Dear me" she said to herself "The boy doesn't mind me in the least. But I'll fix that. He's growing worse every day. Last week he was late for drill five times." And she took one step toward the tent, when the door of that tent suddenly opened a few inches, discovering a young boyish face peering anxiously from beneath a mass of tangled hair.

"Miss Maxwell" said he, "I'm dressing just as fast as I know how."

Then the tent door closed. Jack it must be explained, had been composing himself for another nap, when the sound as if Mildred about to enter the tent brought him out of bed with most unwonted celerity. The boy had deemed it best and safer not to wait for too many orders from Mildred. Once she had thrown him out of bed and none too gently either. Hence his sudden appearance.

"If you are not with the rest in ten minutes, you shall be suspected for desertion," and with these sternly delivered words, Mildred started for the rest. Little more than five minutes later, the stout, healthy dark complexioned lad of [illegible] emerged from the tent, ready and eager for the labor of rowing the raft, and for meeting the perils and heat of the day. His rosy face, and jet black hair, gave token of his real Abyssinian features. His shoes were partially buttoned, his sturdy legs were encased in a pair of yellow stockings, and rather tight purple uniform knickerbockers, and his chubby cheeks wore an air of serenity which coupled with his naturally handsome features made him a pleasing sight to all lovers of boyhood. If he didn't have his one fault of carelessness he would not have been misjudged and feared by the girlscouts. Hastily mounting his horse, Jack very quickly presented himself on the raft, and ignoring the presence of Dolores who he knew did not like him he placed himself with the rest of the rowers crew, and fell too with good will though at the start he splashed some of the other boys carelessly from head to foot and brought words from them which though were not sinful, are not found in prayer books. But trouble was brewing.

Standing besides Dolores, was Percy watching all proceedings as Angeline Ichee wanted him through Gertrudes suggestion to take charge of the rest. Of course Jack Sanders was not a bad young boy, but

he had despite his negative good qualities in other things a large stock of small faults, mainly of too much curiousity at a time when he should be watch ful, and a great overpowering dislike of getting up in the morning, even though it was not any too early.It is fair to say however that in the indulgence of this fault this boy did not always come off with flying colors. Penrod had heard about this boy, and had noticed him splashing several others from head to foot.On this present occassion Penrod had been awaiting with ill concealed anxiety Jacks appearance, for his late getting up had delayed the raft, and also caused Jack to miss his breakfast.

"Oh so you are here at last are you"he began as Jack took himself to the paddle."Report your [illegible] at headquarters when you are off."

In the tranquility of a [illegible] stroke of paddling, Jack seemingly ignored Penrods [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

"Look here [illegible] [illegible]"said [illegible], and she looked hard too"Have you at the prisoners [illegible] Jack gone last night?"

"How [illegible] out to his tent, when you had it guarded" queried Jack with [illegible] [illegible].

"Never mind the how of Jack, but did you go to his tent last night."

"Say Francis [illegible], please get out of my way." said another girl."Ye you almost [illegible] my eye with your paddle handle.

"What I want to know"persued the unrelenting Miss Rehoe-"Is whether you were hanging round Jack [illegible] tent last night."

"If most people stayed in at nights, and went to bed early, instead of running round the forests night"answered Jack still desirous of shifting the [illegible] "they wouldn't be asking silly questions."

At this moment a [illegible] covered with [illegible] on the roof [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], it was for [illegible].

[illegible] his eyes glistened, as he swung with his paddle to try and [illegible] down a few, and succeeded, and drew them struggling to the [illegible] of triumph passed over Jacks face, but just as he was about to help himself [illegible] literally to hauling them in, Dolores grasped them [illegible] harshly, saying "You are not going to have them yet."

Jack waxed angry.

"Oh you think you are funny don't you." She said noticing his angry look.Well don't try it that's all.Maybe you don't use hair dye for your hair it looks so black. Where did you get it."

"I got it from Jack [illegible]."

One of the boys smiled, Dolores tittered, and Angeline blushed deeply. "[illegible]"she cried, directing her forefinger at [illegible] "so you have been to his tent."

"It was Jacks turn to blush, he was fairly caught.

"How did you get in despite the guard being so watchful." continued Angeline Rehoe persuing her advantage.

"I [illegible] to bring Jack some food in a basket."

"[illegible] that's it, that's what I thought, and that's just the way you try to ruin our plans by your carelessness.I have a mind to punish you, you go interviewing with that coward." Angeline [illegible] took on an air of success She was really [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] severely at the culprit.

"[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it [illegible] [illegible] to go see him.They don don't give a fellow any [illegible] in this [illegible], these girls are [illegible]."

"Jack."[illegible] electricshock seemed to convulse the boyscouts, at the sudden stern voice of Gertrude Angeline who had suddenly come up and overheard the remark."Don't answer or talk like that, about us being bossy girls again or I'll have YOU cowhided.Why the idea.It is our duty under pain of responsib ility and sin to instruct any scouter our command, and if you make mistakes we should question you.You have been in Jacks Tent yesterday evening for Miss Saunders told me so. You went there to get some hair dye from him what was your purpose[illegible] all the way to question you on that.Don't [illegible] deny anything or it'll be the worse for you."

The color in Jacks cheeks grew out of all color, till the roots of his hair were stirred he dropped his paddle, and with a despairing expression hung his head.

"[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]" Gertrude continued [illegible] "Is not like to speak of it. And such conduct is more fit for a young scoundrel than for a boyscout whom his leaders wants to train to do the right thing. And yet he gives us the fine "compliment of being"Bosses. I've a mind to discharge you right here.First you ran us into two houses, jam us into wreckage, splash me and Jennie [illegible] from and from head to foot, and do other careless things, and after what we all stood from you without even a murmur, and then question you, you say we are "Bosses. That's right lay down that paddle. You are relea ed from your work."

At this word there was a subdued boo-hoo followed by the sound of heavy breathing.

"You may well cry sir"persued Gertrude,"for you have every reason to be ashamed of yourself. Insulting us girls."

"I just did it by mistake," he sobbed.

"Oh Yes you are exceedingly careless with mistakes." broke in Dolores with infinite sarcasm.

"Go to your tent," said Gertrude.

This last order filled his cup of sorrow to overflowing, stifling an incipient sob and muttering to an orderly that came up to him that he didn't want no breakfast, he departed across the huge raft tward his quarters. The threat of being dhsci discharged still rang in his ears, and sigh upon sigh, bursting at short intervals from his passon racked bosom testified his app reciation of the danger. Of all Girlscouts he knew Gertrude despite her usuall sunny face, and constant smiling disposition was the moment to be feared if you got on the wrong side of her.Presently Jean Saunders, on her

trip down across the raft issued past .At the sight of her, Jacks grief as he suspected her hardened into the sterner form of anger.

"You'll pay for this, Miss Clutcher." he muttered shaking a diminitive fist at Jean,I'm going to see Angeline Jennings to day----I will, I WILL-and I'll tell her all the things you have said about me to Gertrude Angeline----see if I don't----I'll spoil your chances with her."

"Jean though innocent of what the boy said of her was taken back not a little by this threat.

" you darn little scamp"she screamed with more earnestness than dignity, "If you ever go near that girlscout leader with any of your wretched stories, I'll give you such a cowhiding that you'll not be able to sit down for a week. So that's the language you use to us girlscouts who try to be good to you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible]. Go up to your Tent sir, and don't leave it all day.Get,Get." She screamed, raising her [illegible] [illegible] slamming him with it across the back."Move on or I'll lay it across your face" and then as a boy scout rode up at the commotion she said-"Please see to it that he doesn't go anywhere till he's called for."

She then rode on with a stern look on her face.Jack was scarcely three n months in the army.She knew the boy was good, a daily communicant but the want of better training, and refining influence was very evident.Than too Jean reflected, the child from his careless ways stood in great danger of having his disposition ruined. He also was becomming bold.

"Yes"she uttered,"I and all us leaders will have to take some decisive step, or the boy will go on the bad road.He'll have to be nipped in the bud on time.The scoldings he gets is starting to make him hate us.We must find a remedy."

The mournful wail that swept at dismal intervals through the boys tent slightly touched the heartstrings of little Joy herself.Stealing softly in the tent, she entered on tiptoe. Master Jack, his hair somewhat mussed up, and the channels of grief plaint plainly traced upon his cheeks, was lying in phrone upon his cot.The sight of her compassionate face, opened a new flood flood of tears.

"Dont cry so badly about it Jack." she said softly.

"I wish I was dead." cried that young gentleman.

"No, now Jack" exclaimed the horrified girlscout"You musn't talk that way; it is sinful, and I'm sure you don't mean it."

"Yes I do too"he howled howled,"And I wish I was buried a hundred thous thousand miles under ground. And I'll tell you what Miss Joy, I'll run away."

"Oh Jack,Jack how can you say such wicked things!Why surely you would not dare, knowing the penalty for desertion.Come now, you got up late this morning, can't I bring you up some breakfast.You can't fast like this till noon.It harmful."

"I don't want any old breakfast.I don't care what the penalty is.I'll run away and shoot all who persue me see if I don't.I don't want to be in the army any longer.I can't help my mistakes."

"Dear, dear, where did you get all these notions?" queried Joy, whose confiding [illegible] spirit recieved these expressions of grief as so much gospel truth, for he would do it if he was aroused."Jack what do you say if I bring up some buttered toast, pancakes, or a bit of cake."?

In spite of himself, Jack could not help showing, at this stage some interest in these words.

"I don't feel hungry." he said sitting up on his cot,"But I'd like to have some pancakes."

"Not hungry.Surely you must be.Pancakes will not be much.you must have toast too." and she left the tent, and going into the messhall put herself to the work of making pancakes and some toast for the boyscout. Upon her departure however Jack smiled a little, and the smile running counter to his tears formed a sce sort of facial rainbow..Presently the girlscout appeared with the pancakes and three slices of buttered toast, and other delicacies, and then indeed Jack fell to in a manner most encouraging to behold.

"I say Miss Joy"he said, speaking with as much distinctness, as the crowded state of his mouth would allow"You are a real genuine fairy."

He intended this for a magnificient compliment, but little joy did not look particulary gratified.To a little Miss of Nine the word"Fairy" was rather suggestive.Percieving however that again he had made some mistake, Jack finally added,.

"I'll tell you what, Miss Miss Joy"I will try not to make mistakes for a week, and keep away from the coward, and not see him at all."He spoke as if he surely felt how handsome his offer was ...

"That is much better to hear." said Joy."so you'll try to be more careful now won't you and not dump any more of us into the water."?

"Hono Honor bright, Miss Joy."and with this assurance gladdening her hea heart ,Miss joy departed to attend to her own work of watching the progress of the raft, having first givi given him his liberty, only not allowing him to go to paddling.Availing himself of this, he was presently engaged in the rear of his tent in constructing a new and wider paddle...

"Good morning,"said a girls voice directly behind him.

"Good morning , is that you, Mildred,"he made answer as that girlscout, his trainer, met his view.

"Good your new paddle finished yet, so you can sprinkle us with mud some more?" asked Mildred with a twinkle in her eye.

"Not yet, but I guess I'll finish it to day." and he proceeded to start the main f work.In the midst of this interesting operation, there was an explosion in the water, and a shower of wreckage flew all over the raft, and a chip of something flew up, striking Mildred rather sharply upon

the lobe of hher her left ear.
"What was it?"
"A shell."
"Confound it."shouted Mildred, rubbing the injured member with pathetic earnest earnestness.
"you needn't be afraid." said Jack resentfully.
"I ain't afraid.I ll get that Glandelinian gunner ." retorted Mildred in a sharper key.
"So will I"declared Jack, unwilling to give in to the sass entirely. I'm "I'm going over as soon as the raft lands and get some Glandelinians."Well what's wrong.?"
"It's dangerous."said Mildred.
"Well its too dangerous" insisted Mildred, unwillingly to give in entirely.
"It isn't."
"It is."
"I tell you it isn't."
"I tell you it is."
"I guess the Glandelinians will ambush you."
"I don't believe they could, Gertrude said so and she ought to know."
"See here Mildred, do you mean to say that the Glandelinians are really dangerous."?
"Yes I do."
At this moment there was a geyser of water close to the raft, and before Mildred could hold up her hand to ward off the blow, a strong piece of wet wood came into forceful contact with Mildreds nose, hitting also the boy on the head at the same time with a resoundful bang.
"I'm hit by something sharp"Mildred shrieked, as the blood gushed from a wound on her arm and also from her nose. The fast flowing stream not from her nose but her arm frightened Jack exceedingly even though he had rubbed his injured head .
"Oh Mildred"he cried clasping his hands."I didn't think the plan would hurt you so much---cross my heart I didn't"and he rubbed his thumb so as to form an invisible cross over his heart.
"Well do something, quick." said Mildred.
"Oh Mildred don't stand bleeding."Implored Jack."Come along to my tent, and I'll fix you up."
"Where will you wash the wound."
"At the edge of the raft."
"In that muddy water.I'd rather stand here and bleed to death first.That water is dangerous."
These words couple with the sight of the flowing blood, filled Jacks heart with horror.
"Good gracious Mildred,I believe you will die, if you keep on bleeding, I'm afraid you'll be gone"he said paling a little for he was not desirous of seeing her die,"and you'll be cold and stiff."And at this dismal prospect Jack blubbered."Please come to the tent."
and two mournful little children, sought together the cooling waters he had in a big pitcher in the tent.He also placed around her arm a tight bandage but despite all his efforts the bleeding still continued.Their looks of dismay deepened.Suddenly Jacks face lightened up.
"Oh Mildred I have it.A tourniquet.I heard Angeline Gobbo mentioned such things."
Forwith Jack made one and drew it as tight as possible.To the intense gratification of both parties the bleeding of her arm soon began to subside. He saw the wound was quite a deep flesh scratch, and he cared it up as best as it could and when the bleeding was almost imperceptible he bandaged it good and relieved her of the tourniquets.
"And Mildred what's the matter with your nose?"
"How it hasn't stopped bleeding."
"Suppose I hold that up!"
She tried that and,it seem stopped.
Then Jack said"
"What's the matter with locating where those shells come from. We are fired on."
"How."?
"Suppose you loan me your field glasses."
There was a look in Jacks eye which Mildred failed to notice.
"How'll you locate it."?
"Just stand behind my tent, and I'll fix the rest. I don't to see you get hit again."
Mildred obeyed, and Jack clutching hold of her glasses looked.As he did so an explosion occured among the wagons on the raft, and several horses shrieked with pain and now there was excitement on the raft.
Jack raised his rifle.
"Drop it you goose." said Mildred. "They'll fire first."
"You needn't get so excited,"and he fired.
He had observed something, and as he fired he observed a funny sight, a man had leaped to a tree on the shore with his two arms raised perpendicularly and as he slipped his left leg seemed suddenly to go up at right angles with the rest of his body, and then down he slumped.
"Those Glandelinians are mean fellows" vociferated Jack, when he had recovered speech.
"You oughtn't to expose yourself like that,"said Mildred argumentatively.
"Who's exposing himself?" and Jack made his way behind a wagon. Another

shell screamed overhead and fell upon a floating house, there was a terrific explosion and the house was no more. Most of those who were aroused had devoted themselves for the next five minutes in constructing a sort of battery on the raft, for the Regiment had a dozen small cannon.Presently when an oppr opportunity presented itself the fire from shore was returned. To their great disappointment not a single effect was to be seen, and Jack who was watching said:
"I say Mildred got a good grenade handy I are something."
"You needn't miss about a grenade." answered Mildred."You couldn't throw one that far I'm sure."
"Well I might try" Jack went on in gentle tones"I got an artillery piece of my own and I'll teach shore."
Mildreds face softened somewhat.Jack seeing his advantage, followed it up.
"Oh Mildred let's try it."
"Where did you get the cannon?"
"This with awakened interest.
"Reckless Jone gave it to me. Come on into the tent, and I'll show it to you."
It was hoped by the use of this gun to end all hostilities, and within five minutes Jack and Mildred had it ready for operations.The grenade went across the water, and duplicated, there was a howl from shore, and a scurrying of gray clad men to shelter.
"I got them." cried Mildred.
"So you did."
A few minutes after this, Jean saunders called at Jacks tent, to ascertain what was keeping that young boy from not showing himself. He made a careful examination of the tent, paying special attention to the rear, but finding not a trace of him in these parts of the raft, she hurried to another point.
"Jack Saunders"she cried.
"Yes'M"
"Good gracious where in the world are you, you young scamp."
"Up here."
Jean raised her eyes, then gave a shriek of horror, for on the sloping roof of a floating house on the deserted b part of the raft, Jack and Mildred were busily training a small piece of artillery toward shore, and Jack was in the act of loading it.
"Jack get down this minute, this very instant, Mildred I'm surprised don't you know it is dangerous.Good gracious, do you both want to slip off into the river and drown."
"I want to get those Glandelinians on shore If they hit us they'll wreck our raft." came the tranquil answer. as another shell screamed dangerously dangerously near.
"Jack I want you and Mildred to get down from that dangerous position instantly."
"Now Jean we are all right"said Mildred.
Jean was ready to cry with anxiety.
"Jack said Mildred. if you don't get down as I ask this very minute——"
Jean paused on seeing the look of determination that suddenly appeared on Jacks features.
"And you hit it?"
"Yes, hurrah, and with a quick motion, they were off the roof."
"See he thinks he's going to get off easily." Soliloquized Jean."But he'll not stir one step till he tells me why he accuses me of telling on him."and she hastened to intercept him, concentrating her mind to the proper degree of firmness.But ala, as she went toward his tent, he was no where in sight.Mildred had left him too. He had went to report report where the firing was from. Gertrude in the meantime, had sank into a chair and wiped her eyes.It was mortifying to confess to even herself, but she had to admit that she could not tell what to do with Jack.Hene she throughe his cowardice has caused the mishaps to Jean, and the anger of the girls on him.They wanted to get rid of him, and they were beginning to demand of it.Indeed if any boy by any such act as he had done would have understood the pain and anxiety his conduct had wrought in their bosoms, he would probably have thought twice before taking an afternoon's departure when his friends were in peril.
"I must give him up." she said to herself."The boy is a yellow coward and therefore would probably even from fright betray us if necessary to save himself. Unless something decided be done, he might escape anyway."
At length wearied with debating on that subject, and vexed with the disagreeable trains of thoughts, that Jacks recent cowardly escapade had occasioned, she endeavored but with poor success to eat a little late breakfast. As she was about to start, A light but slow thread was heard without. The thread drew nearer, the door of her tent opened, and Jack saunders, his stic stockings bespattered with muddy water, his shirt color crushed out of all shapeliness, his hat gone, entered.
"Well sir"began Gertrude, who in spite of the joy she felt at his appearance was still determined to be severe,"How are you going to account for yourself, in sailing us possess them we try to instruct you?"
Jack hung his head, fell into a closer consideration of his feet, and having no hat to twirl, began pulling his fingers.
"Are you not ashamed of yourself.Think of all we have done for you!"
Jack appeared to consider this a difficult question.
"Do you hear me?Are you not ashamed of yourself "?
"Yes Miss Arenburg, I won't do it no more" this in a subdued tone, and after some reflection."and I won't be careless no more. I came to report we are under fire."
"I know it, now sir you needn't think of escaping from duty."
"Miss Arenburg, I'm sorry."and before she could become aware of t his intention, he threw his arms around her neck and kissed her.Under this warm greeting, her icy sternness melted away, and flowed off ina gentle stream of kindness. He promised her to try to live better, and as the reader will soon know, he kept his praise promise.

After Jacks departure the other { Jack himself was worrying a lot. boys no matter what kind they are, good or bad as a rule are not pleased with the prospect of any kind of punishment, either from their parents, or when scouts from military resources, nor indeed is the number great of these boys who entertain no prejuci prejudices against floogings, discharge from honorable positions and so forth. Jack realising his foo foolish desertion, and knowing the penalty of desertion for even boys, realised that matters had come to a crisis, and not now even a masterly stroke would win his suspense away.He had decided at first to watch his chang chance, knock down his guard, and make a brem for freedom, but though he realised this would be easy, he could not escape anywhere, as flood, fire, and the enemy, and other horrors stood in his way. Disgrace was far better than these dangers, and therefore he had seen it wiser to face the consequences of his desertion.He knew being a boy, there would not be any death penalty, unless the Vivian Girls degreed it, and since Jn; Jean had recovered he had no fear of facing any firing squad.Mary Stanek who had acted as judge however was mercile ss, she had herself courtmarshalled him, and the verdict was that he was to face the decree of the head Vivian Girl Jennie. In fact knowing this Vivian Girl Princess well, he was trembling on account of the wrath to come.His conduct had been telegraphed swiftly in few words to her, and she was a fire hole to deserters no matter who they be, or what age, is unusual desertion had been w already telegraphed to her even before he had been court marshalled, and only his fate was in the Hands of God and it would even require it seemed more than a miracle to avoid serious consequences, der for his desertion of Jean. Nor were his forebodings without foundation.Gertrude suddenly this day recieved a mysterious telegram, signed by all the Vivian Girls but written in Jennie's own hand. It ran as follows;

"Dear Gertrude, via Angeline
Richee,

"I transfered your telegram to our Mother at Angelinia [illegible], for her desi desision.It hurt us all badly, not to say burning us up to learn of such a disgraceful act.As he is considered a foriegner the Abbieannian authorities will not be very relenting I can say, at least they won't if I can see to it.Hold the yellow jacket till he reaches here and we'll court him on the charge.You say he is eleven years of age, going on twelve.I can't see where that saves him from a firing squad squad but we'll decide at the trail.

Your friends,
Violet, and her sisters."

Gertrude on recieving the message had the boy brought up before her, but Angeline Richee who was also present spoke.

"Well sir"said Angeline, since you have gone the limit of your tether you seem to be out of luck."

Jack did not know what "going the limit of one's tether might have meant but as he observed the latter, he set up a dismal wail.

"Sir it isnt probable you will face a firing squad, but you'll see your sentence by them alone,when we arive there.They might start you for your own country, disgraced, and branded as a coward to the whole world.Now sir go back under guard to your tent. You have disgraced all of us.I wouldn't say much about any one deserting another boy, or probably the army, though there is penalty enough for that, but for one who is cowardly enough to desert a little girl companion, and refuses to rescue her when she is wounded by the enemy is a disgrace to us that astonished us all."

Gertrude sent him off herself, and Jack was very [illegible] concession. Yet for the time being we'll have to drop a vial which shall [illegible] withdrawn till the time he faces the Vivian Girls."

During the afternoon of this July 28th(1918, Penrod [illegible] gone out scouting secured startling information for the whole Regiment [illegible], and he served to give a graphic picture of the situation [illegible] the flood same as it was before any one else knew of the threat, [illegible] even secured from an abandoned town letters written and mailed to [illegible] correspondents , which showed the clear idea of what was going on, and also [illegible] of Myletzes plans to force Vivimia before him by means of extending the flood if he couldn't do it by batle battle. This is the news which Penrod brought in, and which caused the girls to show signs of uneasiness-

"But disregarding the disasterous scenes we are encountering, because he cannot despite whipping him." in battle make General Vivimia move off from Richees Farm general Myletz and all his generals begins to show signs of great uneasiness during these last days of [illegible] even has not confident in the reinforcements he has recieved. On the 27th of this month girls as this letter states(he showing it too) Myletze again began to throw out ernormous columns of troops anew to the attack, and raged a conflict beyond comparison till past midnight, but general Vivimia though again driven from his works, would not retreat.Fires broke out throwing forth dense volumes of smoke, and at midnight the flames could be seen soaring high in the sky. Flames were again visible to his right at 1 half past five this early morning of the 28th and rumbling noises as if explosions were heard.At the foot of the St Phelomon hill are the villiages of Precheurs, and Ste Philomene. The inhabitants at the sign of the enemys approach were three thrown into great consternation, and especially by the darkness of the day by great volumes of thick smoke from fires.There was an exodus from all over the district. General Vivimia near these two towns opened battle this morning, and they say Myletze is moving back

because he is suffering such heavy losses."

This was bad news indeed to the litt e girls.While they were out this after noon on the raft, traveling the flood, the whole sky wascovered with a thick heavy cloud, and the whole region was en veloped as if in a heavy fog. Dis) Distant hills was wrapped in smoke which issued from the distant forest fires, and along all the little girls the greatest anxiety r prevailed.And they did not kn ow whether to suspend the trip down the flood any further or n ot.

Even when under fire for a few minutes they all had passed a very anxious morning, yet thanks however to a westerly breeze, the situation had appeared better at eleven oclock, but as the breeze died away at two oclock, smoke began to hide everything from view, and the long lines of the shores and the fringes of woods and the distant slopes presented a most dismal spectacle, causing much alarm as towhat the night would bring forth. When it came to be three oclock, nothing happened however, and although then everything was not quite serene, the aspect became ded decidedly en couraging.The girls still felt excited. About four oclock that afternoon a private telegram came to Gertrude from her wireless telegraph set up on the raft, stated that the forest fire rangers had been drivenback by by the flames/ which were racing madly on. They reported that at n oon a wa e wave of raging flames was rushing up the southwestern slope of the Calso Mo n Mountain, and following thecourse of a mo n mountain stream the bed of which is dry at this season of the year destroyed everything in its path. Estates and buildings and mountain side villiages were consumed by the fiery wave, and the flames appeared to rise from the burning trees to a heig t height of some three hundred or more feet and the extent of the conflagration was fourty miles.

When the fire sea had burned itself tward the summit it was found that a large mountain villa villiage had been embedded in an avalanch caused by the heat of the flames/. The burnin g conflagration had taken only four hours and a half from the time it was first percieved to reach the summit.Then as the telegram stated a remarkable phenomenon occured.

The sea of flames advanced all along the whole stretch of forest on the su mit at about the same 1 time , like an advancing army and spread to the north and south of the hill almost simultaneo sly untill the whole mountain appeared like an ernormous volcano destroying itself.This among inhabitants created a general panic, and the people of endangered towns made for streams, and lakes.Though the flames slowed up before making more progress the panic continued intei intensified by terrible detonations of so many falling trees, which broke from the nountain at short intervals, accompanied with dense volumes of smoke, and lurid flashes of flame.

This was awful in daylight, but when darkness fell, it was more terrible still, and at each manesfestation of the fury of the forest fires, people of endangered towns, in their night clothing, carrying children, ran out into the darkened streets, wailing and screaming, and running aimlessly for any means for possible escape, boarding freight trains backing in to take them, or going off on swift horses wagons, and autos. The mental strain becoming unbearable, Gertrude beling refuges will soon come down to the shore, got the raft ready to take as many as possible on board as it would be safe, but through the fog no one appeared, and it was getting terribly hot. Gertrude also heard that telegrams were being sent from Casten in loring that steamers and shi ping of some kind be chartered to go down the shore of the flood, and bring away terrified people from the "burning hell" But the superintendent of river steam ship lines, was afraid to allow any of the boats to tan take chances of making trips down such a flood .At a little before five oclock the fire struck tward the shore, and the raft was lit up with flames from the near by conflagration, and all the girls were excited but not panic stricken, and she said to Jennie Turner!

"My calmness astonishes me Jen.We are waiting for the events tranquily."

"Our only suffering"said Jennie is from the heat, and the smoke which prpenetrates everywhere, even 5through our tents.We are all calm, and little Jean is not a bit anxious nor n ervious.But" her eyes twinkled"Jack the coward alone is frightened. If we are to meet death we don't worry, but because of these disasters already raging a numerous number of people have already left the world.What the outcome will be is up to God's Will.But we must now keep off the shore, and take the chances of traveling the water by night."

Gertrude examined the letters OPenrod had brought.These and other letters inclosed samples of the ashes picked up from the strewn courses of the deadly forest fires. The population of the region was flocking westward, and all the inhabitants were panic stricken, business is being suspended in big cities, and towns, and the firemen were hourly sprinking all houses in the hope to prevent them from catching fire.Many letters indicated that eve evidences of a great impending fire disaster was numerous.One letter said-

"The whole country presents as an aspect unknown to all the world. It is a region, a vast region of fire and smoke on one art and a sea of water the other.The inhabitants of many towns and villiages are abandoning their homes, and are flocking to railroads to be taken to places of safty.It is a most curious crowd of old , men, women, and children, and country folk loaded

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with what household goods they are able to carry, or what they have had time to carry with them..... The air for hundreds of miles from the heat is o ppressing/, and the heat makes a persons n ose burn.It appeared as if a whole world of people were going to die of heat asphyxiation.Gertrude wondered what the coming of night, and the morrow had for her and all her followers. Suffocation by smoke, or a overwhelming catastlysm from the flood?Would the raft be wrecked by floating debris in the dark?Who can tell.?Yet no one exce t the coward was afraid. Gertrude however decided that to make a landing to the shore that night should be pos on posponed as the shore now was inaccessable.

Gertrude that dark night who was watching the forest fire by means of its glare said that she saw seven luminous glares on differe t different parts of the horizon, and one north as bright as red hot iron, just before turning in hour came.She said to the girlscout leaders who were grouped about her, that when the flames came in sight to the southeast, there was a terrible suction of air which seemed to be changing the course of the raft and draw it irresistibly toward the fire in spite of all the efforts of the boys at paddling?The shore as far as trees extended then became towering walls of flame, which swept down, and along the shore with terrifying rapidity.Then there was somewhere some awful jarring rumblings.she thought that the entire outburst of flames of the conflagration appeared like this and spread so far along the shore in about thirty minutes time/Outside of the glare of the flames there was complete dark ness caused by the dense volumns of smoke and clouds of unspeakable horror that was produced by the conflagration.The entire country was being turned into achaeotic waste.All the burning trees were either being torn up by the roots by the fire hurricane, or snapped off, to lie level with the ground like so many torches. After the passage of the conflagration within such easy sight, the outlines of the shore but imperfectly remained. The tangle of flaming smoking debris, which such that the course of the pathways in the forests could not be followed.

In spite of the dreadful horrible surroundings surroundings, ad the universal wave of human sympathy which had been evoked thro gh thro g throughtout the the world,looting by many Glandelinian Vandals began throughout all portions of the disaster zone almost quicker than relief had come. As soon as it was possible to get through the danger zone without mishap Gertrude heard that countless Glandelinian ghouls began to rob the ruins of the flooded towns and the bodies of the vi t victims wherever they could find them... And in the flooded towns the monsters plied their nefarious work in small boats, or on rafts, and gasoline launches. Skimming through the flooded streets, or or among the floating ruins, or along the shores of the floodd, they would watch for an opening, when troops and rescue parties were elsewhere,then land, and grab what the y could, and rush away again.

Surprisingly enough the raft contin ued on its way without any hinderence from any wreckage that may be afloat, but sometime before dark, they managed to overhaul a small boat containing five boys, and a man who appeared to be dressed in a Glandelinian uniform.Gertrude was somewhat suspicio suspicious of the appearance of the boys and the man, and at first pretending rescue she advised them to come aboard her raft.Then when they were searched, Gertrude was surprised to find they had in their o pockets coing and jwelery, and rings, which they were forced to confess had been stripped from the fingers of the dead.They were Glandelinian boyscouts, and the man with them a soldier was the father of two of the boys.As Gertrude could not just then bu be burdened with any extra numberof prisoners having the boy enough, she made them get off the raft, after taking from them, their spiols, ordering them to get to shore before she'll forget being merciful and opening fire upon them.They were glad to escape thus so easily, but somehow or other this trival experiece experience cured them of their vandelism.Yet however it was that no detail of grewsome horror was over lacking during this horrible warto make the shocking tales of the destruction throughout so many districts of the Abbiannian country complete/.

They soon even on water srived within sight of the burad city or town of St Francis. It can be known that at one minute there lay a city smiling and quiet in the morning sunshine, that a few hours afterwards it was a mass of roaring flames, with thirty or fourty thousand of its population who did not escape writhing in the throes of death amidst the flames. One moment all the church bells throughout the city were ringing joyful chimes in the ears of the citys one hundred and seveny five thousand people ---the next the flame clogged bells were sobbing a horrible Requiem for fourty or fifty thousand dead. One waft of mourning breese flowed over the citys over church spies and domes, and efer over residental districts, and roofs an and angles of a populous city---the next hour swept a lone mass of white hot ruins, and the forest fire carried forward by its shrieking fire horru hurricane swept past and on.The sun trying to shine through the smoke clouds glistened one moment on sparkingly fusing metal, blistered, flame wrecked squares, and charred stumps of trees, fountains, green parks, and trees, its next rays before setting time shone on melted street car and railway rails, and other melted articles.

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IN WHICH THE RAFT GOES ONWARD, AND WHERE THE GIRLSCOUTS FINDS ON THE WAY, THAT MISCARRIAGE IN ADVENTURE SOMETIMES COMES EXPENSIVE. NOBLE RESCUE WORK. HOW ONE TOWN ESCAPED....

ONE day and the beautiful city was all lightand gay color, a ll gayety and grace----the next its ruins l coked to Gertrude as though they had been consumed by hellfire, and then crusted over with twenty six hundred years of solitude and silens.As they could see the city was a vast charnel region.

Skirting for nearly a league the raging waters of the mighty flood, its smoke smoking ruins became the funeral pyre of probably thirty or fourty thous and not one of whom lived to tell any story that will and always will stand grim, awful, unforgotten as that cause of a ravaging heartless enemy who had caused all this. Gertrude imagined that St Francis was as dead as any city ruined by destruction.It reminded her of F omPeii or St Pi r St Pierre. M s

Most of the people probably were utterly consumed, and over the destroyed city and all around it from still smouldering forest wreck the flames still poured their heavy smoke in long curling wreaths or sheens like a fog, that mounted thousands of feet aloft, like an ormormous inferno just smoking.Such was the result of the forest fire disaster disaster which burst upon the hapless people of the city and its neighborhood, while almost at the same moment a sister a city, called St Vincent, was suffering a kindred fate.Similiar in the path of the raging fire sea, these two beautiful cities underwent the shock the forest fires brought, and sank in grief before a horror stricken world, and an angry nation, bidding fair to rival ruin for Glandelinia in the near future/.

The intervals between the finishing part of the afternoon and the following night till the approach of morning July the 28 29th taught Jack Sandors a good number of experiences as it were as he was on night duty for the first time in his life.The propest of preparing for any peril that might threaten the raft and of heading it toward the more open spaces of the flood so as to avoid the debris that was floating thicker near the shore, where he seemed thrown upon his own resources, put a touch of earnestness, and great carefulness hitherto lacking, into his efforts in such wise that there came a change fo unusually perceptible as even to attract stern Gertrudes notice.During the full night, strange to say, Jack showed such lack of carelessness, that Angelinias Richee believed believed he was cured/.

At ab about thirty minutes past seven that morning of the 29th, Jack enveloped in mud and debris which reached up to his wai waist(which he received during his efforts to keep the raft clear) looking rather solemn, and being relieved from night dutystood duty stood silent in the wagon he was asked to go and change his uniform. On shore somewhere far off, bells were ringing, engines were puffing, hissing and shrieking, tracks seemed to be rumbling and quivering, the sounds of cars were moving in and out, and men were shouting orders, now here, now there ina manner most confusing to the inexperienced eye, and looking through his glasses he saw women andchildren running for a long line of box cars many looking hopelessly lost, while far off flames flared and sputtered over the whole scene.Another town was in danger.As he saw train after train loaded with refugees moved away to bring them out of danger, Jack realized too that the raft had been taking a huge curve in the shore line during his efforts of that night, and that somehow because of such a turn he had raced the fire, and his heart grew heavy.

Seeing her coming Jack summoned Mildred.

"I say Miss Maxwell"he suggested,"I guess we can't dare go any further this way."

Mildred smiled.

"The Glandelinians sure show how to frustrate us in our purpose."

volunteered Dolores very smartly.

Jack shot an indignant glance in the direct w direction where he knew a Glandelinian army might be.

"Keep up your c u courage, Jack"whispered one of his fellow boyscouts."It's for our own good, dear, and in ten short days I'll bet we'll be all sitting pretty in Emperor Viviane army again."

The prospect of "ten short days" and the resultant of "sitting Pretty" gave him very little consolation, but Dolores cheerful face as she smiled on him had a reassuring effect.It was the first time she had ever gave him a friendly look.Absentung himself from the group he immediately went to the edge of the raft to take alook down the north, for he was thinking very seriously of laying outa goodly number of Glandelinians, when a crowd of his boys came over to join him. Jack gazed at them in amazement.

4C4

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"I say," he said addressing one of the boys about his own age,"What's broken loose.! Something wrong!What's your hurry!"

Instead of answeri g answering this question, the boy stopped and considered Jack attentively.

"Didn't you see the crowd on shore!" he at length said.

"Whatwdro@if$fagged!Jack.

"What crowd!" asked Jack.

"The crowd of refugees on the shore."

"What!" cried Jack in astonishment,"Are all those people lining the shore refugees of the fire too!"

"That's what Jean says."

"Well if we could help them things wouldn't be so bad as any one would believe they are.I say let's rescue some of them.Harry Johns. what say you!"

"Yes if Gertrude approves of it.See they are beco beckoning to us."

"Here this this lassoed rope"said Jack, and they attempted to do so but the rope wouldn't reach.While they were were thus trying to do some rescue work Angeline Richee walked up to them. Harry raised his hat, and endeavored to compose his features.

"Well Harry." said she,"What are you doing!"

"Jack perceiving that the eyes of the girlscout leader were fixed upon him, became nervious, and endeavored to bolt a piece of bread which he had recently placed in his mouth, nea l nearly choking himself.

"We were trying to bring some off the shore." said Harry.

"Oh indeed.Well that's impossible. So this is the boy who is learning not to be careless.You done good work last n ight."

"Only did it four or five times in my life Miss Richee."

"And got himself all wet last night.And fires upon the enemy from the top of slanting slippery roofs of floating houses.You sure done it good yesterday with that gun.You killed thirty Glandelinians at one shell.I found it out.You and Mildred are good believe me."

Jack only remarked.

"Please Miss Richee, if you wish I'll do it again."

U pon this the g r girlscout, who had change of all laughed cheerfully, shookkk shook Jacks hand, as cautioning both not to go too close to the edge edge of the raft and to take their places at which she pointed out, hurried away to see to the safty of the luggage.

"What's her full name!" inquired Jack.

"That's Miss Angeline Richee.she's head of disciplin in this Regiment. She's a mighty good girl, and when you do everything right there'll be no no better friend.She's going with the Vivian G rls to learn the cause of the disaster at Abbieann."

"At Abbieann!" echoed Jack, with the vague idea of that disaster running through his head"What does that mean!"

"It means that Violet, and her sisters are going to find out by having investigations made, who was reallly responsible for that disastor."

"Whew- ---but they do not look that daring."

"They do don't have to.But just wait till they start out.They have done many daring stunts before.And if we find out it is Glandelinia who is guilty for these calmities, we'll thrash the Gladelinian armies so as they will prefer standing to any other position for many years after."

Jack was appalled.His companion could he only know it was not exaggerating for it was indeed the intensions of the Vivian Girls.

"Do the Glandelinians make these disasters often!" was Jack's next question/.

"Well I should say so, last year you remember we had the ernormous Lake Selicia disaster, elsewhere smaller disasters have occured nearly twice a day, and now it is said there isn't scarcely a week, that the country doesn't have to look to its mother states for repairs."

"Gracious." ejaculated Jack."I won't stand it.Harry you and I are partners. I'll tell you what lets do.Nobody's watching us.Let's slip away .I've got money and we can support u ourselves on that, till we get there, and then we'll find general Manley and shoot him."

Harry of course had no idea of encouraging Jack to run off that way to go shooting down Glandelinian generals.He merely wished to tell him of what the Vivian Girls were going to do.

"Oh you needn't do that now.We get lots of fun out of this flood."

"I don't see any fun in seeing so many cities flooded, or burned by water and fire once or twice a day."

"You won't be able to get at crasy Manley anyway.He is such a dreadful case such a hard case you see to get at, and that's why he is dangerous." Not withstanding this avow avowal it is but just to remar that Harry features in their normal state wore a very mild expression.Still Harrys explanation did not succeed in disarming Jacks anger.If there were any real wicked Glandelinian generals in the foe armies, Jack had great reason s for believeing that general Manleys name would lead all the rest.

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He was about to press his proposition of going away to get Manley with still greater earnestle earnestness, when he o hea rd his name called.

"Coming directly Miss Aromburg.I say Harry, you keep a cot for me next to yours." and Jack pattered off to see what she wanted before he retired as he had had no sleep for twenty four hours.

"Well my boy"said Gertrude returing his salute"I'm about to put you into good hands to night.Your work is going to be precarious, so you must be careful.You will now be thrown among all your boy paddlers of the night crew, and remember that on your choice of carefulness do e depends our safe trip to night.Teachers may instruct, our officers may exhort, but if you don't remain careful no you'll not be better.Do like you did last night.That should be the n ight of your life as for once even you broke all records for being careful.If you make a good show of yourself to night, you are sure to get on well with all the girlscouts ,xcso look out for what your work is, and try to be as careful and as good a boy as you can.Now Jack dear, be watchful on these points.As to the rest I hold no fear.Here's something to keep up your courage- -but don't forget to say the prapers while at work."

and she handed him a miraculous Medal. Jack took the addi advice with effusive enthusiasm.Then saluting he turned to Jean who was standing beside Gertrude.

The kind girlscout could not repress a few sobs.

"God bless you my boy." she faltered."Be sure and do your best, and I'll pray for you every hour of that night as long as you are working as I'm on night duty too.And I'll forget thox those accusations you made to me."

And she handed him a basket laden with his favorite delici delicacies.

Jacks eyes filled at these signs of his superiors kindness.

"I've been awful mean to you Miss Jean, lots of time, but I didn't intend anything yo you know, and I'm sorry I accused you but I made a mistake.I thought you was someone else who did really tell on me.And I'll try to be better honor bright."

"The flood is rising a little morw"shouted a voice.

"That means for us to keep clear of the shore." Gertrude said as Jack went to his tent to retire. They all moved tward their own tents.

Jennie purser at that time came up.

"Is Jack on duty again to night.Gertrude.If so I have the honor of taking charge of him and his night crew to night.Come on you boys.It's time for your day sleep.No into your tents you go."

And without giving these boys an opportunity of making a farewell speech to on another, she quickly saw to it that they obeyed the order, and they all went to their tents.

"Here's your tent I fixed up for you Jean"said Mildred, who faithful to her promise had seen to it her tent was placed specially in a good safe spot.

Jean hastened to o occupy the tent, and laid her self down, as the raft again began to move onwa d onward, while the day boy paddlers gave three vigorious cheers.

"Ah I like this waid Jean, throwing her head on the pillow, and yeilding to the luxury of the hour.

"Jolly isn't it." Mildred observed."Did you ta e any breakfast before you came in."

"Yes"said Jean.

"Here take some candy." and she offered Jean some.

"I don't care for any now."said Jean with some hesitation.

Therefore both went to sleep.

"This is going to be a unu unusal trip"gertrude observed to Angeline Richee."Did you take in the observations!" and she offered Angeline her field glasses.

"Well no."

"Why not!"

"Well I'll tell you,"answered Angeline in a burst of confidence."We can't see anythrough through his humbug smoke haze.And if the whole country was to go up in smoke now it would only to look like an inferno to astonish the world. You see, though its thrilling I have no liking for forest fires.I've seen big ones once or twice when I was up in papas hayloft, but its awf always made me feel bad.So you see I don't like it, and if I'f I'd be a humbug if I pretended I did.And if makes such a fog even over the water that it is hard to tell where we are going."

This was the longest speech Angeline Richee, had ever made to her, and it produced its impression.

"Well you've got true steel grit Angeline.And I like you better for what you have said.I like to observe a forest fire once in a while just for the thrilling sightof it, but I'm pretty sure that half of the forest fires are made by the enemy."

"I don't mind seeing a little one ,but not a big one..."""Said Angeline...!!!..!! "why!!!"

"Oh, pshaw, it takes a whole army to fight it, and then in vain, and it takes so many people homeless, and lots of other horrible things."

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"That is so too."

"Yes, and then then half of the forest fires are bigger than any woman think of.It's nothing to get stuck up about.I've seen one that moved forward with the speed of a windstorm.Sometimes the refugees are so scared, andso forth that they are even afraid to run for their safty, and don't try to escape at all.And that is what they call apathy."

"Yess"assented Jennie Jens"and yet when a forest fire overtakes them there is panic which no one can describe.And yet Glandelinian prisoners say there is nothing to worry about, when a forest fire rages.They say its the fortunes of war."

"I suppose some of these Glandelinian generals wear their mustaches on their toes." said one of the girlsc u scouts. At this there was a general spell of laughing.

Both Gertrude and Angeline Riches considered the suvject however pretty well exhausted"continued Gertrude"There are only ten boys on duty for paddling the raft forward to night."

"Yes, its been chartered for thdi their crowd.

"Do you know whether they can do it all?"

"I know some of the older boys.They are good.And I believe Jack is being cured of his carelessness."

"I Say Gertrude"said Jennie "Do you know all the names of every Glandelinian general in chief of the Glandelinian armies.?"

"Yes I have made lists of them."

"Do you know them all?"

"Yes, but I know some of the oldest Glandelinian generals most."

"Who's the general who always has his coat collor turns turned so to hide his ears winter or summer, his hair sticking up like bristles, smoking a cigar always unusually long and wears a high stovepipe hat with yellow and blue stripes and has a long peak on it?"

"That's general Francis Schmidt.He's a dangerous general, and so hot headed is he that he is known as general Gin gersnap."

"Who?"

"General Ginjursnap."

"General Ginjursnap?"

"Yes." That is his nickname, you know he's such a grouch with his men and officers. I can't think of the many other nicknames he has but he is known as General Ginjursnap."

"Is he good to eat?"

Everyone within hearing laughed when she made this remark.

"Jennie"said Gertrude"You are a joker."

"Well Gertrude, and who is the picture of this Glandelinian general who has his hair like a carrot bangid all over his forehead, and a pugnose, and an awfully big mouth, and a two foot beard and such awfully long black hair and such piercing blue eyes, and wears a hat like those of the time of King Henry the eight."

"That's a general who is the highest of all.General Raymondson Richardson Fedderal.None of the Manleys are as high in rank as he is. "

"General Fedderal."

"That's who he is .He hasn't got any good nature about him at all, and has a terribly wild temper.In fact I think Think he is the most wicked general of all.He's do named general Pugnose.I saw one day when he lost his temtemper because he couldn't put his collar on quick enough and when he got through with his display of anger, the room he was dressing himself in looked as if a cyclone struck it."

"Because he couldn't get a collar on quick enough."?

"Yes."

"You are kidding."

"No I'm not.Cross my heart and hope to die if I'm telling you a story. I can even prove it, and get proofs of it."

"Maybe he is crazy."

"I don't doubt it."

"Do all the Glandelinian generals have nicknames."?

"All the Generals have which I know, except one."

"Who's that?"

"The Manleys and his son, who is the highest next to Fedderal."

"Who's the highest general of the enemy." ?

"His name is Louis Lucis Turner.But though he is a Glandelinian general he is notso cruel cruel."

"I wouldn't trust one of those d darn Glandelinian generals."

"Who are those five generals grouped together in this picture, who looked or do look like each others sisters.????"

"Those are all the Manleys.... "

Jennie's eyes were fascinated by this group group in this picture, and yet not being satisfied with the information Gertrude had vouchsafed, she looked over the photograph more closely.

To her some of the Manleys wore the funniest hatts of all creation creation. Frank Manley wore a hat, that if laughing would have killed her she would have laid down and died right there, for she flooded her eyes with tears just from so much laughing.She when she had the chance to overcome herself satisfied herself by taking a deliberate survey of the picture, and thought to herself,

"They may be great generals alright, but I've seen better men in the insane asylums.I think if I were one of those hats people would think I washa having Hydrophobia. I'll sell them a hat some day that'll reach the moon."

Concerning Glandelinians Jennie always liked to be sarcastic.

"O Penrod is in the meantime was making an inspection of the day crew who were getting ready for the main work that was to come.Having first satisfied himself by taking a deliberate survey of them all, much much to their uneasiness, and manifest discomfiture, he opened the conversation thus;;;

"I say hallos."

The largest of the group of boys at the saddle paddle a boyscout about the age of fifteen or less answered;

"How do you do sir?"

"You do not need to address me as sir, as we do not make ourselves look big. "You may address me as Schofield Penrod, Junior Penrod . What's your name.?You see I've got to take a list of every one of yo , so I know where I stand in my command."

"James Jones."

"You are not a foriegner.?"

"No Junior Penrod."

"Good thing.Your name sounds it though like you're scotch.You can speak only Abbiconian?"

"Yes."

"Are any of you twins.There are two of you who look alike?"

"James and Frank are Twins, Penrod."

"There are no triplets among you boy scouts are there?"

"No Penrod." answered the boy.

"Well take good care of yourselves as you work.Remember keep clear of the wreckage that is afloat if possible, and do not get the raft jams jammed. Remember I've had my proper training from the Vivian Girls and know what should should be done.I'm in personal command here now." and bestowing a genial grin upon those who had spoken to he returned to watch some of the girlscouts under his charge.Jane was at work. The raft was now or had now passed beyond what looked like some submerged city, and was speeding along through the open flood. Without it was pitch dark though it was morning,and the sable solemnity of the darkness was enhanced by an occassional glow from distant forest fires, that flashed before their eyes,and then as quickly disappeared behind clouds of smoke.

"I say what kind of a region are we in now?" asked Jennie, resuming the conversation with Gertrude."I wonder why it don't get day lith daylight?"

"We are not in any place but on the flood. It's the inundation"

"Is that what you call it?"

"Yes, this flood is a lot of water to feed the ocean with."

"And don't it go anywhere else?"

"Oh yes it goes over all the land and makes rivers go into seas, and if it continues we might as well tank it up and keep it as an inland sea for a remembrance of what the enemy did."

"Gracious "Cried Jennie, absently placing her hand on her forehead)

"But I suppose all this water has to go somewhere some day. "

"It'll take many days can maybe many months before all this water is gone I can just tell you, and then even it seems we've got to stay cooped up a little.It's only a Blenglglomenean Creature that can swim this flood outside of fishes."

"The Glandelinians are not going to treat our country that way.When I have the chance and Violet, and her sisters finds out it was the enemy who was responsible I'll pop off every Glandelinian general, every chance I get...?..!!!."

"If you do"said Jean, who overj overheard this remark of Jennie's"IT will be doing worst stunts that even Jane has been effecting.".

"Yes."

"You'll get hounded all around the country by the Glandelinians/"?..?

"What do you mean by hounded.?.?."

"Why the Glandelinians will sent agents, spies, and so forth all over the world, and they'll never give up untill they capture those who have shot their greatest generals."""

"Jennie. groaned.

"I guess then my fun is all over.W she mutter muttered in a faltering voice.

"Oh we can have lots of fun spying on the generals, you you know."

"How is that?" asked Jennie anxiously .

"Why we can go out spying, on any day we choose.I have walked six miles or so with a party of spies ones, but some of the littler ones were not able to stand the tramp so long.We had to sit down and rest then for five or some terminutes before we resumed our journey.And while we were stit sitting down to rest you you we were allowed then to talk."

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"Do you ever talk much while you are marching whether it is against the rules or not.?."

"No Miss Turner"said Sean emphatically.

"And do you mean to say"cry cried Jennie excitedly,"that after marching for five or six miles the younger scouts are able to continue on again. ?"

"I didn't say any such thing."

"But you know they can't be left behind."

"No indeed, whenever we used to march we always had a few covered wagons along and when a fellow can't walk or a little girlscout gives in they tumble him or her in.But they have to be mighty tired before that happens/".

"So"said Jennie after a moments reflecting"That's what you callfun when we have to march for days without stopping.?"?!?!?!"

"Certainly it's the jolliest kid of fun."

"I suppose you girlscouts who were with general Vivians army xonsider a funeral a good joke."!"Jenie did not know she was becoming sarcastic.

"You are talking now for sure." said Jean."Whenever a girlscout or a boy is killed on duty we get off night duties to go out and see if we can't pop off a Glandelinian officer to satisfy our loss."

"Did a boy or girl get killed often?"

Je nJean irgon igno red the literal meaning lf of tyi this question as she answered;;;

"No not many thank Heaven, and for the safty of Glandelinians officers.Only two or three a months.But when we lost in one mon th a girlscout we kill ten Glandelinian offiders.If we lose one boy we kill twenty officers."

"Who does the shooting.. "

"We girls or boys do."

"What d t do the boy or girlscout die off."

"T ey don't die at all, they get killed by being shot in ambush.It's the orders"we have recieved not to take our loss for the sake of the cause."

Gertrude jumped up from her seat, and Angeline Richee stood lookingcid indignant.

"And we stood our loss." said Angeline with considerable fierceness."

"What loss?" inquired Jean rising from her reclining position.

"Why since we were out we've lost ten girls and six boys because the enemy fired upon us, and you two were hurt, and nearly died.And we took it all without even a murmur, and your g crews in Emperor Vivians army take off as many Glandelinians per boy or girl lost as you were commanded.We are all crazy fools.We did nothing."

"I did." said Jane."

"You are not WE." reto retorted Jennie.

"Well I'm willing to tak in the count.We only did it because we didn't think. We forgot. Let's see, we lost sixteen of our scouts..Ten officers for a girl. Twenty for a boy.Hem, we'll see.If we can't get the officers we'll massacre a whole command of soldiers." and she fell to brr brooding.....!!Le

Wheto whether the conversation would have drifted it is impossible to say ,for as the raft stopped just then before a jam of wreckage, Gertrude and Angeline Richee, with that natural curiousity to see what was wrong, and know all things for the sake of the saftyof the raft, and thoxe those of her followers dashed out upon the raft.As there was no harm done(except the paddlers saying "oreign Language" which though is no sin) Gertrude was satisfied, but she endeavored to help the boys nevertheless.They got it loose after desperate work, but then a huge raft of lumber torn from some lumber yard bore down upon them.

"We got to get loose"cried one of the boys, when he and his companions had gained their proper positions."Let's blast the jam."

"What are you thinking of now?" asked one of the others.

"Nothing except that we got to break through the jam."

The boys glanced around dubiously.It was now after seven oclock in the morning ,and most of the boys wearied with their desperate efforts, were tired and ta ing taking a rest.

"What's the use"one of them said."The jam is too thick."

"All the better.The blasting will tear it apart."

"Well how'll we do it.?"

"We have lots of explosives on board.Do you see the thickest part of the floe over there?!?"

"Yes."

"Well that's the idea."

"But will it work?"

"Come on and see?"

Taking a number of sticks of dynimite, and followed by boys with long poles with strong hooks on them, and accompanied by Penrod, Jack himself not the careless Jack but the hea head of the crowd sallied forth, and l lieed the charge. The ex l explosion went off with greater force than was ex ected and the raft was showered with the debris.

"Look out girls"cried some of the boys, as a stick narrowly missed him. Crash went another explosion, and the jam was torn badly apart, and immediately it began to swim off in another direction leaving the raft free.!?.

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"More dynimite please."

"I haven't got it." cried one boy jumpingup where he had been thrown, and rubbing his eyes."I h gave my mites to Ger-"

"Dynimite Jim can't you understand" and he brought it.Crash, up into the air went some more of the jam in a hundred torn pieces of timbers and other wreckage.The rest guarded themselves very well, but the raft was the worst for it. It was covered with the debris, mud and wriggling fishes, toads and other water creatures, and several of the girls and boys working to free the raft had been hit by flying w fragments.All of them stoodaghast.

"Let's pull out now." said Tomson.

"Yes and we'd better hurry, before the raft gets jammed again" counselled another, but before they could carry out their purpose, Gertrude came hurrying up."

"Young boys, who succeeded in getting the raft free!" and as she spoke she glanced curiously at all of the boys.

"They did"said Penrod pointing to the boys who were using the explosives."Here's the last charge,looks like the flood exploded doesn't it?"

"Oh goodie"ofi cried Gertrude,"But the raft is covered with mud, and we'll have to clean it all up.Now did the raft get caught into the jam."?

"It crashed us by the cause of a backflow."

"I do not understand how them can be.Unless we can get clear of all of it by the next hour we'll be ruined.There's a backward current of the flood alright. Can you boys force your way through the rest by means of the poles; because if you don't we'll surely be stuck."

"We could launch it ashore untill the water is clear again."

"How can we do that?" asked Gertrude sadly.

"We can take the northeast curve." said one of the boys smiling, and muttering that he knew what was best to be done.

"We'll have to"said another boy.

"Do you want to delay the trip?"

"How would sticking in the jam do to night?"

"Can't afford to do it now."

"Well then lets head for shore, and we'll wait till the flood is clear again."

"Seeing you seem to know something about it, I'll take the chance."And Gertrude went her way wondering how it would work.

"Boys"said Angeline Richee coming upon them from behind."Suppose you head straight for the shore or at least to the forest glen over there in the murk. IT'll be easier."

The boys thought it still better.

"I don't want any jams any more to night." said one of the boys ruefully.

"Neither do I said the others."

And they set to work heading for the shore, fighting every obstacle that tried to bar their way.

Strange indeed it must always seem, and will always seem to the girls and boys, that all those who live or did live and still live in the very shadow of the threatening wars horrow horror, should not heed the muttered warnings sent by telegra h telegraphs the premonitory symptoms of the awful war. But the war hid raged over a year before the enemy ever started any serious out bre k or caused any unusual as most terrible phenomena, and no one in the States of Calverinia or elsewhere ever thought that their beautiful forests were ever going to go up in fearful conflagrations.And so, as famili arity breeds contempt of all the greatest dangers, till they are thought of as no dangers at all, what the enemy could do was not feared or even believed except as the remotest of dangers, hardly enough to cast a cloud over the happiness of s the people.

And yet as Gertrude said to Jennie during the time the raft was again beached that afternoon of the 29th;

"The warnings were ample .Two weeks before the past disaster at Lake Selicia I myself had recieved a letter from some friend of mine who then lived in the town of Mic-Haller Melendale County.The letter which my friend wrote indicated to me that all the population of that town appreciated the danger, when earlier in the war the enemy first displayed signs of starting minor disasters, and showed all signs of suspicious activity, the first dreaded consequens on April 15th 1918, which date the letter bears, and I wrote back to her advising her to make plans to leave if occassion should arise.I have recieved many letters before that date, because I was known to be a scout, and one other wrote to me that a schooner, which name she did not mention, was in the harbor of Lake Selicia, and that the whole family planned to sail away on this ship if things looked threatening."

"These"disasters"said Miss Saunders little Jean sister,;"Makes me fully aware of the full gravity of the situation threatening the whole nation, and when I was at Calverine in June this year I experienced something like fifteen short earthquakes, which I was sure came from the shocks of explosions."

"Did it do any harm there."

"No but the people got scared and fled into the streets."

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"How did you ex e experience experience it."

"It's a long story but I can tell it graphically. The shocks came at a little after midnight. By morning the whole population of the city was on the alert and for hours every eye was directed toward the direction from whence the sounds of thunder which had produced the shocks had come from. Many others had their eyes directed toward Mt Calverine an extinct volcano by the citys name but over ninty miles away. Everybody was afraid, that the volcano had taken into its heart to burst forth in into frightful eruption and shower the city with ashes. Fourty years before the volcano had burst forth with terrific force, and destroyed everything within a radius of fifty miles and gave Calverine a blizzard of ashes two feet deep of a snowy white. When the shocks and the detonations came they believed it was the mountain again, and all the volcano men went up to investigate, but no proofs of the mountain doing all that could be found. That night I was in bed with my littler sister Christine, and ou our parents and Jean had got up to get herself a glass of water as she was thirsty. It was then that we heard fifteen distinct shocks. They were so great that we supposed at at first that some one were firing artillery signals in the streets, and Jean went out to look but found no one in sight untill a panic drove the inhabitants into the streets. The first report was very loud indeed, but the fourteen others were so great that dishes were thrown from the shelves, our beds reeled and rocked, the windows slammed in their cashings, the doors opened and shut, and the house we was completely rocked. We could see Mt Calveria from the frony front windows in our house, ad although it is fully ninty miles away, we could easily see it in the moonlight, ad expected to see lava issuing from it with terrific force, but were suprised to see it as still as ever before. Then also I suddenly recollected, the sounds were from the south, and Mt Calverine is northwest of us."

"Another thing" said Minnie "We have either been following the forest fire or it's been following us. The whole atmosphere far over this flood is heavy with mist rising from the water, ad and clouds of smoke have been over our heads for the past five days. And too Gertrude sometimes the smell of the smoke is so strog strong that our very horses are snorting, and I'm sometimes afraid that some of them will drop in their hara harness and either dis from heat or suffocations. The other girlscout leaders frequently assures me that there is no immediate danger, and when there is the least particle of danger we can alide off from the shore we are heading for now. Many ouf of our followers have been obliged to wear wet handkerchiefs over their faces to protect them from the strong fumes of the pine tree smoke. I saw the partial wreck of some old river schooner called the Randon a little down the way stranded where the flood is not deep, and if it was still staunch it would not have been a bad idea to use that. But while we are on shore and the heat from these awful fires becomes very bad we shall ema embark at once and go back to the waters. But here we are now, and the boys have leaped to shore. We can see what will happen."

Ever since the 28th of July and through the night the distant fire horror which was wroughting such awful havoc had been threatening to charge its course. It it had then landing would have been impossible. Yet great walls or columns of smoke kept mounting high in the far distance, ad there were from time to times great sheets of flame shooting through them. While they were landing their raft ashore to await the passing of the huge jam of wreckage, dense clouds of smoke rose at a closer distance, and as it was quite dark because of the tvickness of the smoke overhead the flames accompanied by strange rumbling noises lighted the sky over a wide area, causing wide spread terror. After they had landed Gertrude climbed one of the highest pine trees within easy distance, ad as she reached the top and could see afar, she observed a surge of flames rushing up a hillside a thousand feet per minute, following the formation of some ornormous glen and reaching the top of the forested hill in three minutes, and shooting up in a huge towering sheet of roarig flames/.

She could see that as it surfed forward this fiery hofror horror burned and withered in its path hillside plantations, factories, cattle and human beings, over a breadth of twenty smiles. At the rear of the mouth of the Blanche Creek Gertrude saw stood the little town of Gertrude, which had one of the finest factories in the world. A portion of the fire was heading hell bent for this town. She could see hundreds of people making hasty preparations to leave. As the flames rushed up the hills, it spread rapidly three thousand yards all along the eastern part like a big wave. Terrible and strange detonations heard some distance to the north followed at short and irdegular intervals, and in the gradually increasing darkness caused by so much smoke Gertrude could see that the eletric lights of the town failed, but the town nevertheless was lit up by the lurid flashes of the flames, and that the terror stricken inhabitants were rushing for the western hills in their very night clothes, screaming and wailing, all mad with terror.

She saw one family was escaping in a small steamer going down the flood. All this time Gertrudes followers had remained down below. Finally she descended and

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said;

"I don't know how our situation is. It's coming this way."

At Angeline Richees orders therefore the raft was quickly launhed launched again. At that hour there suddenly spread over the whole region of flood a thick cloud of smoke, flying embers, and a swl sweltering heat, which came from the direction of the southeast. The cloud swept over the flood with terrifying swiftness turning the twilight into the darkness of midnight with hardly a moments notice. From this cloud smoke s poured down upon the raft as the boys weremaking desperate efforts to draw it away from the land, and heat fumes threw some of the girls into wildest anxiety. They saw further off the flames sweep back in a great soarunig soaring sheen for fully a distance of the exten of the horison, and a wit set in that sent trees crashing down and against each other with great force. The girls knew what was happening, and the boys were working harder and had it half way already in the water. It was safer to take the chanes of being in a "jam" than being on land. The forest fire which had so long been threatening threatening to roar westward, had at last done so, ad the whole landscape as far as eye could see from n orth to south, seemed to have broken out into the most appalling eruptions on r scord. As quickly as possible in the confusion, the girlscout leaddr leaders knowing what need there was beganto organize some system in getting the raft off shore. Finally it was launched and the boys started ops paddling away at full speed up along the coast but some distance from it, followed it as it seemed by the great column of smoke and fire, and a hot wind tore the water into fierce waves rocking the raft like a storm. They h ad not been gone from the shore over two hours, when the entire shoreline of the flood was all onfire, all being walled up in flame, ad it was now impossible to s approach the shore within one hundred yards on account of the intense heat/

An explosion occured somewhere from some reason on shore, and the terrible gales of hot winds tore the flames foliage from the trees, and these fell in such quantities about the raft, an that desperate work was a cessary to prevent the canvasses on their wagons from catching fire. All along the shore as they still drew further out the scene indeed was dreadful more appalling than can ever be explained. It looked as though as far as within sight the whole world was becoming one mass of flame, that all what was not water throughout the world was burning. To make matters worst they were again jammed, and w while they were trying to work the raft free something of the w very upper portions of the jam caught afire. Throughout the whole day the heat allong the shore even after the flames passed on or burnd down to the waters edge ad then smouldered was so intens and the conflegrations so incessant that it was impossible to approach the shore within a hundred yards. As evening approach those of the paddlers at Angeline Richees direction, after a heroic battle with the heat suffocation ad smoke and smoke fumes succeeded in making a dash for the shore, nearing the burning land close encugh to see the extent of the disaster. Yet still the whole flood front was burning for as far as you could see from not n orth to south.

Some of the boldest girls by wetting themselves wanted to go ashore, but could not land on account of the terrific heat, which was strangely accompanied by loud explosions. Smoke obscured the raft at times.

"Gertrude said-

"I believe the whole country is going. The whole country will need to send northward seeking assistance, as all the country is burned up, the stock is dyning towns are gone, all the plantations are charred, ad the country people and people of the town and villiages are flocking into creeks, lakes and trying to get away by railroad, and even the whole region will face a terrificfamine because of both fire and flood, and we cannot even proceed. We will soon have to load our raft with food of all sorts as our own rations are running low. I'll have some of the boys try fishing to morrow if any can be caught."

"All attempts to get down the shore by a northeast course will be barred by this awful fire." said Penrod mo pping his brow. I've seen even near the flood recently houses blazing and everything is a murk of smoke. All our crews are up ad and working or something. It's too goshhanged hot to sleep. I'm very vertain that whole towns and the neighboring country for scores and scores of miles have been destroyed, and I doubt if many of the inhabitants escaped."."

"By midnight I'm going to try and make a landing at that ruined town over yonder or drink the flood." declared Gertrude. "We can bring proofs back to Emperor Vivian the extent of these disasters.....?."

There at about eleven thirty ofl oclock that evening a lading was made. The raft landed south of the burned town. Though it was still smoking the party bravely made its way through the labyrit labyrinth of smoking ruins, and found practically every building except one big brick structu re burned to the ground. They found that all of the big town was in smoking ruins. The smoke from the awful smoulders continued to rise in never ending clouds as it seemed/. Gertrude feared now that every villiage ad and plantation in the path of fires were destroyed. Small streams also were dried up. All food was destroyed, and she belie; believed that the people who escaped the fire or suffocation in the dense smoke would perish

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of hunger and thirst.Unknown to her there were three other large towns besides thi this one that were destroyed in the great fire catastrophe.On was four miles south, another five miles northwest,, and and one east.No doubt many of the inhabitants saved themselves by taking to forestless ground or to takes.Some of these two towns were situated at the foots of a mountain.In this manner between fourteen thousand and fifty thousand may have been saved.

Thousands of dead bodies of animals of every kind, frightfully burnd and covered with flaring smoking tree trunks were lying in all parts of the fire swept forested region, while other thousands were burnedunder the ashes. Hwe However the little girls fortunately did not see thesethings.Gertrude thinking of of the many refugees believed they would be there for many days in the hills, and that their escape would be practically cut off by the sea of flames. How the place she had recently leaked the raft, being nearer the path of the forest fire than any thing else, could escape, could be explained by the fact that the trees at that location did not grow down to the waters edge, and also their now new landing place was seperated from the conflagration by a deep unforested gore and high cliffs.It was supposed that the right wing, and not the center of the fire went tward this direction, and that the fire hurricane, rolled forward its appalling Ocean of flames, not northwestward as was expected and hoped for, but tward the nrtheast like an enormous wave, moving tward the locality to consume the best of the foests foes forests in its path, and Gertrude knew some day or other It would head for Evangeline St Claire or the forests in that locality.If great fires also were raging eastward, the deep gorge and high cliffs between it and the landing place for the raft would be sufficient to protect it from that peril.

Later on Gertrude Angeline heard that a large portion of the blame seemed to be upon some of the Highest officers of the Forest rangers.At least there was great indignation against them from the inhabitants as the panic of the survivors subsided.It was remembered that when the towns were threatend threatened, and the fires were giving warnings of its approach and the disasters the conflagration was was about to work, the officers of the Rangers refused to permit any general exodus from the towns. Only the day before the fires came up to that locality, a commission of forest rangers investigation officers, presided over by the officers and appointed by them, assembled at the town od of St Francis for the purpose of studying the progress of the phenomena.And it was agreed that the relative position of the landscapes and theactions of the floods further west, permitted them to affirm the security of these towns.With that statement the head officers tried to reassure the po people, already becoming frightened, and it is decalred even called out the very militia and drew cordon of troops around the towns forbidding any mass exodus.For an mistaken judgement these Forest Ranger officials paid the penalty of their lives, with the thousands of people who were believed to have perished.

Also there can be no doubt whatever, that sciences and fear, and the spreading of the great conflagration itself united to give warnings to those who would heede.Professor Gump one of the main forest Rangers examined the conditions at the forests days fo before the disaster, and sent a chiper dis patch to the Governer of the state, and through this many towns were warned. Strange as it seemed Gertrude found a few surviving newspapers in the burned town including correspondence, showing that the fire phenomena were clearly in evidence and that the warnings were ample to permit escape if the people had been roused to fear in time.Letters recieved from other places verified these views and in creased the wonderment of Gertrude that there was not a full realisation official and otherwise of the necessity of a prompt ex exodus. Thefloud elsewhere also had given its ample warnings, and many loves commissions had called attention to the threat hanging over over all of Southern Calverinia with but scant attention being paid to their prediction.....

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CHAPTER [illegible]

THEY AGAIN LAND ON SHORE, AND MAKE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF SOMETHING UNDER UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES NOT ENTIRELY DESIRABLE.
JULY THE 31TH A DAY OF HOPELESS DISASTER AND DESTRUCTION.
WHAT MYLETZE DID IN ORDER TO ADVANCE.

"Look out Gertrude"that's Pawnee Creek.It's dangerous to push the raft too far in.The fire might come up ad cross it."

Gertrude placed the glasses to her eyes as the raft slowly sped on, and saw a small picturesque stone bridge passing over a large stream of water that was somewhat filled in with the waters of the flood so that it was six times its normal size.She She had hardly time to catch one glimpse of it, when her hat blu blew off, dropping straight downinto the waters of the flood, and it was swept away.She shook her head mournfully.

"I guess traveling is pretty dangerous these dan days." she growled.There's forest fires raging as it seems all over the whole world at the same time, you go traveling in the flood, and get jammed of and on,, and have experiences that make one sick, get driven off shore here ad there because you don't want to face the inferno, have a number of your own people shot down and laid out by enemy snippers, just to the full satisfaction to those old pig headed Glandelinians, and now lose a new military hat thanks to the wind, and the floud."

"Oh you can get a new hat easily enough." said Angeline Richee.It's only a short time now to reach Emperor Vivians army and I have sent the message to the Princesse asking them to hold the army there till we arriv e.Now keep your eyes open one minute." continued Angeline."See she added a few minutes later,"See that road leading up along the slopes along by the hedge.Many's a time I've taken a walk on it.Wello there's the good old white fence.Now we are entering good grounds where we can with pleasure watch what is going on about us with safty."

Gertrude had scarcely time to take a fair look at the fence, when the raft came to a standstill in front of a large four story brick building, with the words "St Gertrudes Orphan Asylum"crowning its brow. Fronting the building was a spacious building garden, diversied diversified by several winding and shady walks, fronting the garden was a high white fence, and fronting the high white fence were some hundred and odd girl and boyscouts, with a few officers, who evidently had been out on a long scouting tour and got lost in the endangered region.But for a moment Gertrude took no notice of these things, her eyes, ears feelings, her whole being seemed to be concentrated on the officer who was beckoning to her.The long red uniform coat were something new to her, and so great was her astonishment, that the loud cheers of the boys and girls as the raft stopped, the fierce wistling of the winds, the sharp cry of "forward, might as far as she was concerned have happened at the other end of the world.

Angeline who had left her and the raft to shake hands with some of her friend friends on shore, found Gertrude a few minutes later, standing in exactly the same position.

"Wake up Angeline"she cried, "Gertrude wake up,"and she slapped her friend on the back.

This touch snapped the charm.

"I say Angeline"she at length burst out "Poor goodness sake, look at that soldier with the long red gown on!Isn't he a sight!"

"Oh how ignorant you seem to be all of a sudden." said Angeline Richee with an easy air of superiority."That's not a coat its a Gemini Cassok, and the man in it is one of the head members of the Gemini, and he's was expecting us here all the time.I sent for reinforcements, and you did not know it.Well here they are."

Gertrudes face expressed about two closely written pages of astonishment astonishment.

"Does he always have to wear that-- that thing"?

"Yes, come up to him and I'll introduce him to you.He's under you thought."

"But Angeline, does he really always wear it all the time."?"

"That's what I said."

"Gracious.I'd like to see him try to run away from a number of Glandelinians. "Fshaw" he looks for all the world like an old lady."

"You'll find out pretty soon, whether he canrun or nt"retorted Angeline a little sharply"And as to being an old lady, you'll chage your mind pretty soon, if any Glandelinians whom s you see try to put up any tricks on him. Mr Gingigore "she continued, addressing herself to the subject of these remarks."Here's Miss Angelinia Aronburg, a great girlscout leader sir."

The man with a smile and a word of waclcome cordially shook Gertrudes hand, at the same time bestowing such a clear penetrating look upon the girls upturnd face that as Gertrude always afterwards declared"Mr Gingigore seemed to see

clear through his her uniform blouse tny back to the other side.

"I've heard of you Miss Arohurg. Your a wild cold colt, a wildcat to the enemy I suppose."

"I couldn't say yes, and no"said Gertrude in her most modest tones"You may ask the enemy."

"Is she as lively as you Miss Richee:?"asked the Colonial man.

"I guess she'll train the enemy not to be wild any more Mr Gingigore"returned Angelina in all meekness.

Indeed the subdued air that had come over this man, now that he stood in the presence of these two great girlscout leaders, was something wonderful...

"Well Gertrude."continued Mr Gingigore."I've brought the reinforcements you have asked for.Can I inspect your raft:"?

He got the permission, and he hastened away to look the raft over. Gertrude and Angelin Angelina, left to themselves sauntered lieasurelt up the garden walk, the former all eyes for the strange surroundings.

"This was a good orphan asylum,once upon a time." said Gertrude."I wonder what is that log low brick structure to-our left?"

"That's the childrens infirmary.That was used for the sick orphans."

"It looks kind of gobd."

"Yes but we could use it for a short of fortress ow if the enemy parties were to attack us here.This large four story brick building in front of us, was where the children had their bed and playrooms.That side building was where the Nuns, Fathers and Prefects had their rooms.The lower floor of the main building though was the refectory for the smaller girls and boys.You'll see there are two large yards, two refectories, two study halls, three washrooms, and five dormitories, so as to keep the little and the bigger children apart, the large room just av above the refectory was the main study hall for the older children. I wished to land here, to make our surveys as to how we'll make our progress to Evangeline St claire.If the enemy would try to surprise us we could use all these grounds, and the houses as fort foe fortifications .Now come on over to the washroom, and we'll wash and brush up for diner dinner.We haven't had a good cleaning for weeks."

They turned to the right, on reaching the railed steps, leading up to the brick building, and passed between the inmir infirmary on one side and on the other a strong three s story structure of stone, which had been used as the class room building.Continuing straight on, they passed through a double gate now ajar, and the hinges rusted---and found themselves in an open playground about five hundred feet long by three hundred wide.

"This used to be the smaller childrens yard." vont v volunteered Angelina.

"Yes!" Queried Gertrude pleasively."Do you think we could make a good trench here in case of necessity:"?

"I'd hate to spoil the yards.But come on.Let's hurry in before the rushs."

Beside the gate, at their left, and next to the class room building, stid stood a three story frame house, the upper floor of which was a dormitory and the lower a washroom.The second floor too was a washroom.On entering a novel scene presented itself to the eyes of both girls.With the exception of one plain and two shovelboard tables, and a few benches, the main body of the room was free of all furniture or other obstruction.But lining the fail four walls all around was a series of boxes with hinged doors, each box divided into an upper an lower partition, used for the keeping of soap, brushes, toilet articles, and the like, and above the boxes were scattered towels, s oap and tin basins in all manner of ungraceful confusion; the towels for the most part dangingling from window hooks, hooks and nails inthe wall, and from water pipes ornamented with here and there a faucet. Everything was left as the children had left their when th ey fled from the building for fear of the approach of fire or the enemy.At the time that the two girlscout leaders entered there were a few boys and girlscouts in the room, engaged at their cleaning, while one of the elder was standing by an open window.

"Good morning Miss Arohurg." said one of the boys tipping his hat and shaking hands with his girlscout s p superiors

"Why James:So you are here again.:"

"Yes Gertrude, I'm like a bad penny to the enemy.Emperor Vivian wants me to rejoin you till you can reach his camps. You sed lots of reinforcements ad I hope the rest cancome in a week."

"In one sense yes." said Gertrude," but you are too modest.I'm delighted tov to see you again.And I see you have a new boyscout friend.Who is this?"

."This is c Tommy Mr Frenders; Gertrude.And I say, canI join in on paddling the raft, and can Thomas do so too.And I'm the only boy here now that he knows."

Gertrude who had, in the meantime, taken Thomas's hand with a smile of welcome, assented to James request.

"Thank you Gertrude." said James effusively, and he conducted Thomas to the outside, while Gertrude and Angeline Richee remained near the window, and she pointed out a code she had been making to Angelina.

"This is code number twenty nine---my designs of our territor y ----Angelina)
------6 and here your's, number thirty.

"Did you make those codes." Exclaimed Angelina.

"Why of course." Gertrude resounds respod respounds."

"Just then Thomas came inand he did not look satisfied.

"Here's pa a paddle for you my boy" said Gertrude pointing to one mother girlscout was brig in .

But the boy did not seem satisfied.

"That small paddle for me." s he exclaimed.

"Why sure." answered Gertrude."You don't want the whole earth do you!"

Without making any answr answer to this importA ques ion, Thomas walked over to Angeline Richee.

"I say Miss Richee,"can't I have a bigger paddle, besides the one you've given me.:"?"

"Why, what have you to say against the paddle I have given you!"

"Oh that's all right but its too small, I would liketo have a bigger one."

"Indeed.What do you want a bigger one for!"

"Well you see, I want a "iggerone so I can work faster, you know."

"Ph "said Angeline Richee breaking into a smile,"you'll get a bigger one when you are on the raft.That smaller one is to row down in a boat with when we sent boys up the creek to scout."

"Oh that's it---is it!" and Thomas satisfied with this inro information, rejoined rejoined his friend outside, who with his eyes bulging out of his head had been watching the proceedings of Thomas in the utmost astonishment.

In the meantime the washr on had been rapidly filling.Every other moment as t to say witnessed the appearance of many new faces.Among those that entered were notably the "Graham Boys, who looked timid beyond description, others like Thomas and James and Penrod were quite tranquil an self possessed, and rather bold but not noisy.This latter class aroused the curiousity of Thomas.

Suddenly other girlscout leaders including Dolores, entered the rooms

"I say James"he inquired,"Who are those new girl scout leadd leaders who came in here demanded of the boys not to to talk so loud, ad walk around with lifted shoulders, and go on around as if they own the whole place!"

"Sh-h-h-h-h, don't talk so loud, see one of them is looking at you severely Thomas"said James with unaffected seriousness."They are a few of our best leaders.You can see they are perfectly at home.They are apt to be pretty hard on those who dod do not do the right thin thing."

"Are all the girlscout leaders that way!"was Thomas next question

"Well not at all.But a great many are.They have to be.It's discipline you know."

"But why on us boys only." only!"

"James laughed.

"I don't mean that.No one is exempted."

These questions and answers afford somewhat insight into the economy of the girlscout and boyscout life.In the Angelinian armies their discipline is very strict, they get to behave, be obey their leaders no matter who they are, go to Mass and Holy Communion daily, and no matter what age must have nerves of steel and not even among girls be afraid of mice and rats.

We hear ad read a great deal about the easy confidence-- -nay boldness of children to teachers, and the like in our own countries, but they can ot be this way here in military life, and they are just as responsible for their mistakes and so forth as a common soldier and face the same penalty.As a new comer he cannot be timid in the slightest degree, though he or she has to be the meekest of mortals.The first few weeks of his or her changed life they may rarely speak above a whisper, and silence is in the ranks is obeyed. To quarrel among themselves is the penalty next to anything but death,.And with the rolling months as he or she picks up many a friend or so he or she becomes more at home.To be a leader you have to know all your geography and history by heart, not only that but you got to prove you have been a traveler, know the ins and outs of the country well.And it is usually easy to tell a leader of the scouts.Every look, every tone, every fe gesture proclaims in terms unmistakable, that he or she is a leader, of whatever rank, that he or she knows more about military affairs than any one under her or h im; that he or she is up to every conciavable turn of girlscout fortune and adventure, than any other no matt r matter how naturally gifted whatsoever. When every one under the leader does everything right, there is no need of fearing him or her, as they are all alike in comradship and friendliness, but through some cause or other some leaders are terribly severe probably from hot tempers, bossiness or so forth.It would be an injus injustir injustice however to let the reader belive that all girl and boyscout leaders belong to this class.

Not so.Quite a goodly number are as polite, unpretending, gentlemanly, and sensible as any one should be. Jennie Turner was a girlscout of the severe class, one of the superiors next to Angeline Richee, but other otherwise kind hearted and reasonable.But when [illegible] look out.

But when you get on the wrong side of her it is stop from under. For the last five or sie six minutes she seemed to be very conspicious, in the washroom, as she always has a habit of always laughing, talking in a loud voice and making great gestures, and many spoke of her in whisphers of how she always got ahead of the enemy in her experiences, and she herself was speaking of the great and goodly number of girlscouts that had already appeared in the washroom, ad of how many more was needed. Having completed her toilet, which consisted chieflty of giving herself a general wash, and of fixing her hair, Jennie Turner stationed herself at the narrow door doorway of the washroom, where she checked up on the names of various newcomers as they changed to leave or enter.

James and Thomas were now going out, and Jennie was anxiously awaiting him. James advanced first, and being an old well known boyscout, was allowed to pass without hinderance, then came Thomas, who by the way had been watching Miss Turners work for fully five minutes. As our careless boyscout was verging upon the threshold, he, not watching where he was walking put his foot n in a place was where it was not supposed to go.

"Why good gracious"he exclaimed turning on his steps,"Did I walk on your foot little girl?But really I didn't see you standing there."

"You wretched careless little fool."fairly roared the girlscout leader, who was now hopping about with a combination of earnestness and livliness livelin ess exhilarating to see,"What did you think you stepped on my hand. Go to the front a d and report to Gertrude Angeline.You'll answer for that."

The boy would not have obeyed but Thomas grabbed him and marched him forwards. "That's too bad for you." Gertrude made answer with her face screwed into its most serious expression."But I can't do much to you except have you work three days on the raft at paddling without having relief.Go on the raft careless Holligan and stay there."

With this reflection she passed on arm in arm with Angeline Riches, who was struggling but with sorry success, to keep from saying things about careless boys and girls she should not say, and leaving Jennie Turner to continue or conclude her work as she pleased. Jennie soon finished her ow work, and she then went to a place adjoining the end of the washroom, which looked like a small shed, under whose protection cover were a number of [illegible], a par pair of parallel bars, a few other articles of gymnastics, and a line of benches.Upon one of these latter a bunch of boys including Thomas and James seated themselves ca,m calmly awaiting the sound of the dinner bell as the whole company was going to dine in the building for a change.Scarcely had they composed themselves when Jennie Turner who was wearied of working, turned the corner.leisurely leaning her head on her left arm, her left arm on one of the parallel bars, and pla i placing her left hand on her hip---she fastened a stern gaze upon the boy who had so foolishly and carelessly stopped on her foot.Noth withstaiding he seemed to be oblivious of Miss Turners presence.

"I say." began the girlscoutgeneral, when she realised that both pose and gaze had shot wide the mark--"Are there any more boyscouts of a careless nature like you at home."!

"No."Said the boy I'm the only one."

"Did you ever live in Abbienum.I see you got a cap which was manufactured there!"

"I don't know where I got it I'm sure"answered the boy with suavity,"but if you wish me to do so I'll write home to Abbienum and ask."

At this rare retort, a number of the boy and girlscouts who were sitting near by, and had been gazing about listlessly broke into smiles and titters. Jennie glared at them ferociously, whereupon their faces fa,l fell into length again and they looked solemn. Gertrude laughed too"but met no rebuke, for at all they were superior girlscout leaders, and consequence was entitled to the priviliges. Encouraged by the power of her eye, Miss Turner turned it in full force upon the boyscout, for she was really testing him, and again address ed herself to that unafraid youth.

"What's your name Sonny?"

"Drank Greene."

/Did you ever see the floods at Abbienum ?"

Greens face asumed a most troubled expression, he passed his hand over his forehead, and through his hair-- then after a pause made answer;

"Can't remember it just now.My memorys bad when the weathers so hot and there so much smoke in the air.The town I came from has an awful long name.It took the priest over five minutes to get it in, the day I was baptised.It's Bananpistopolious town."

Another titter from the listeners, and aloud laugh from Angeline Riches while this time Gertrude looked serious.

"I suppose." continued Jennie Turner with excessivetron y"You think you are funny."

."I'm supposed to be." answered Green blandly."All the family at home say I am, and during a funeral once I made them laugh till the tears were in their yes at the solemn parts.They never let me go since."

There was a prolonged giggle, and a louder laugh.

"Laughing and giggling like monkeys don't get any of you silly asses anywhere" said Jennie sternly to every one who had giggled."Then to Green"You are acting terribly smart, and she now stood quite stiff and upright.

"am Smart"echoed Green,"Why now your hitting the [illegible]

"smart echoed"green"Why now you are hitting the nail on the head.The fellows at the boyscout camp I attended lat last year said they would not come back if I did, because I onl carried off all the dopolomas and premiumns, and that is why I come here."

"I'm going to try you out on that"she said, drowning the lachter produced by this last retort, and as she spoke shepulledout of her pocket a code written and formed by Penrod himself.

"Oh if o you are going to test me" persued Green with all the placidity of a midsummer zephyr,"I think I had better shut my mouth, or you might poke that paper down my throat, and then I'd be sick for life.."

In this quick rejoinder there was to the spectators gazing upon the paper in Jennie's hand a certain obviousness of point, consequently it aroused mirth in all the listners, and surprised Jennie.

"Come ,come don't talk silly. what is this code.Explaining the meaning of it."

"It's something about the city burned by this forest fire."

"Are you sure!"

"That's what it says." said Green.

"And what else."

"And the fire moves on us like a sneak."

"That's what it says."

"And it says also our only means is the flood."

This was a surprise for Jennie indeed.Before more could be done, the bell rang for dinner..........."

"You took her up in gre great sha n Green."Observed one of the girlscouts. "Where did you getthatcool way of saying things!!!"

"Oh I used to study a lot so I could say things without getting excited..."

"All the same you'd better keep your eyes open.She's a superior girlscout and she'll surely test your mentality for your talk before long.Anyhow if you manage it right, you'll be all right.She's a great girl and good, but if she caught you or any of us adoing something wrong, she'd be sure to ta e it out on you.But she is good hearted and won't do anything severe for nothing."

They were all now at the doors of the refectory, and as each girlscout(private) entered, Gertrude, and all her fellow officers assigned them their places at one of the ten tables each of these being laid for fourty.To their regret however Penrod, and Jennie Turner had to place themselves at different tables, and so did the other officers as there was no room elsewhere.Angeline Riches led the prayers before meals. The dinner passed off quietly as Gertrude never allowed talking during means meals.Before the Thanksgiving was said, Angeline Riches, ann ounced that each boy should, immediately on leaving the refectory, go to the yard of the home they were taking possession of, where he would lean learn his class of paddlig, and obtain a number which is on each oar he is assigned to use.. Thomas and James who contrived to have theirinterview with the prefect of girlscout leaders at the same time, were both assigned to be the leaders of the paddlers.They managed to get the numbers to the best raft paddles about the same time too, and so to their undismuised delight, Angeline Riches at the suggestion of Gertrude Angeline appointed them to take up their line of work on the morrow along side of each other.

"Jennie this building and groups is just glorious forour troops and to use as our headquarters." exclaimed Gertrude, as they emerged from the dinning room."We can have all the boys counted, and put in their own class.But look here while you were checking up on the number of oars, and I was outside waiting for you I heard something.Do you know the first thing coward Jack is going to do to us.!"

"No what!"

"Why the first chance he gets to day, he'sgoing to try and kn ock us down and make an escapade." .He's watching his chance now in the yard I think, watching when he guard is 1 not looking."

Gertrude and Jennie stood still, the latter giving h erself up for a few seconds to reflection, and then she resumed her walk and observed;;;;,,;;;;;

"WE'll fix him.If he tries it Gertrude.I'll tell you what;we'll let him go pretty far for h with his attempt it'll be a joke anyhow.I won't n otice him.But when he gets behind me, and tries to do something I'll suddenly wheel on him and cover him with my pistols.Of course you'll be standing in front and facing me."

"What will you do if he strikes anyhow!"

"You'll see.He won't en joy the attemp attempt very much anyhow."

N o sooner had the two girlscout leaders entered the yard, than they noticed that Jack Hans was eyeing eyeing them closely.

"He's waiting his chance " whispered Jennie.

"Just so"answered Gertrude."Say lets go down by the small hand ball alley.

Jennie acquiesced, and both made their wa way to the further end of the yard/ together.Jennie with her hands in her pocket leaned against the body of the alley so as to take in the playground, while Gertrude also hand in her pockets stood facing Jennie, commanding a view of hardly anything save what was included in the two walls of the alley.Jack in the meantime, was following in their wake with ste althy steps, even Gertrude could devine this fromthe expression on Jennie's face.If it had not been for the [illegible] Green

If it had not been for the carelessness of the same Francis Green all would have been well. Two boys with him were standing near Gertrude and Jennie and Green not looking what he was doing was demonstration how he could kick backwards, jump and so forth.

"Talking of Jumping"exclaimed this boy"how's this"and as he startedbackwards one of his feet like a swift kick landed right on Gertrudes leg, she recieving the full force of this on her shins the tenderest part of her,.On th e moment Gertrude testified her presence by a prolonged angry howl.

"Good gracious." Green exclaimed, paling as he turned around and addressed Gertrude, who with both hands wax was hood holding one knee, and hopping enthusiastically with the only foot she had at liberty."I couldn't help it.How in the world did you come to be behind me.?You girlscouts are terribly unlucky are you not?"

A crowd of boys who had been watching Jacks ill timed attempt to attack the girls, had captured him, and taking in the situation Green continued to Gertrude---

"Does it hurt little girl?"

"Does it hurt?" shrieked Gertrude passionately, suspending her dance to give full effect to his answer."Oh no it surely doesn't hurt at all.It feels awful pleasant you boneheaded fool." and with this burst of eloquence, she resumed her dancing."

"I say what's this!" inquired Green, holding a scroll of paper"Is this yours.?"

"Yes, and I wish you and that paper were in Hades.""The intense devotion of this sentiment was beyond the slightest doubt.

"But persued Green"You've got a old code on it.So you've got what you want .And am I really and truly a fool?"

"I This question so angered Gertrude, that she lost sight of her pain. Releasing her injured leg, she made a savage rush at Green.But she was frustrated by Jennie.

"Let the half wit alone Gertrude dear." she said."Then she turned to the boy. "If I had let her do it it would have served you right.You've no buisness kicking girls from your careless actions.You've just stepped on my foot this morning.And look here you'd better not continue such actions while I and Angeline Riches am around.Cure yourself of this habit.Another such freak from you and you'll pack up and go home."

and both Gertrude so and Jennie scowled at him.The boy was too crest fallen to face his scowling fellow scouts.Gertrude, scowling, hobbled off to the infirmary to get her , leg painted with iodine..

The reader may frequently call it to mind that Jennie Turmer was a good model girlscout leader, not the kind of a model girlscout that a always figures in girl scout stories, but such a good model as any one may expect to meet with occassionally nay, God be thanked for it; often times in real life.At wi signal work, running, horseback riding, football, baseball, and all manner of even any boys games no one was more skilled than Jenn ie Turmer.She was smallll, undergrown for her years and slightly made, still her strenfth and power was not questioned.And yet she had never exerted her strenfth for mean or lowpurposes, and she had never usee her commissional powers for anything save that which was right and ennobling. She was always everybodys friend---with her the bad wdr were for the m ouce good, and the good were better. Withal she was always cheerful, jooses, and a bit of a wag for a girlscout leader.She had always made her way through life with the brightness n and wholesomeness of a sun beam. Nor is Jennie Turmer amog the general run of girlscouts in her command an isolated character.In her command there were and are hearts as warm and minds as noble.Those girls and boys q are themselves the least self comcious so conscious of mortals. They were always doing noble work for their cause, and the Lord and Savior whom in the nobility of their hearts they love with manly or girlsish tenderness.But just the same they can't tolerate carelessness, and cowardiliness.

While they were waiting for most of the girl and boy scouts to fix themselvesup for their rooms Gertrude and ten of her officiers including Jean, Angeline Riches, and others decided on the morrow the last of July to investigate further the progress and horror of th o disaster that was hin dering their progress tward the christian lines.

Mary Stanck went the furthest with her scouts. She came back with Elsie Ruth Mic-Whirther who had accompanied her and Elsie said;

"I have just returned with Mary from the interior .Few Gertrude are the survivors either on land or flood, who passed through the horrors of flood, or the fiery ore ordeal of the destruction of forewts forests.I've met persons who are dazed from their sufferings, and the shocking sights they have witnessed, and they can tell of their own experiences with dramatic simplicity, although far from realising the whole destruction of the forests they had witnessed.Even Gertrude from trained observers, who had hastened to the scenes of disaster as fast as trains and swift ships could carry them, came graphic tales of the horrors that met their gaze. The flood is our own way."

"Did you see much wehn when you went on your way to investigate?" asked Gertrude.

""I was one of thevfirst tovreach the desolated town of Hansoniavillie, and had I the means to dispatch a messe n message or a connected account to other places of what I saw I could have made the whole country finally understand what a dangerous foe Glandelinia is."said Elsie.

INdeed on the morrow the 3Ith they all who dared went to take a vi w of the ration of devastation. They surely had a hot and most warm trip before them yet they came upon another ruined town, which had been blasted by the fires, and such scenes could be only inadequately pictured.Not one third of the awful horrors that they had seen there had been told even a month after.They approached the site of this town soon after six thirty o clock that morning of the last day ofJuly.The lofty hills and scenes of forest burn and other horrors of the forest fire that had passed.on was hidden behind a white colored smoke haze.Twice because of the heat they were driven back tward the flood shore, and even there they saw ernormous qun .quanities of the wreckage of large and small river craft and houses that strew.the surface of the sea w flood .Huge half burned trees and too often bodies with flocks of vultures soaring above were floating here and there.From the direction of the still burning forests, and the smoulders came blasts of hot wind and smothering smoke.At the girls and boyscouts traveled further, they came to a town though not touched by fire was smoke laden, and near there they encountered old men women and children franc frantic to get away and who begged the scouts for a passage on the raft or for some refuge.They had room for none, but managed to lead them to the orphan asylum, and there were so many of the refugees so badly burned that they h ad to be put to bed in the dormotiries.About fourteen died.The condition s of these unfortunates they heard from the survivors was no worse than thousands of other fire refugees lingering in the hills about this region not touched by fires.They were told hundreds of them will die, before relief can reach them.And many thousands needed medical care,vfood, clothing, and above all water..As the raft felt its way down the coast of the flooded land, they could see that the whole landscape wqe was obscured in smoke g fog Furious blasts of heat, and smoke swept over the raft, but finally the town spoken off was reached, or rather the spot where the city was once standingvbefore the awful conflagration struck it. For fourteen miles along the flood front, and for two miles and a half back from the shore to the fire blasted foothills stretched the heap of smoking ruins, and all around and beyond the ruins of the fire blasted forests was still smoking intensely and great ca heat came from that direction. So complete was the sweep of fire that the girls and boys could n ot even distinguish where there had been streets.

"We can't even distinguish the sites of the large buildings"said Joy."It looks more as if it had been a city destroyed under a rain of fire lava and debris."

"Yes we are literally in an inferno." said Jean.The still smoking forests fragments is towvering avo above those smouldering ash covered hills.These ruins are still burning in many places."

"I wonder where the frightful odor of burned flesh is coming from?" asked James.

"I don't know." said Thomas."But I don't want to see to find out...""""!L.?!L

They made a landing with great difficulty, and almost in peril.When they reached one section of the town at the landing point, they found that not one single house was led left intact.Great heaps of smouldering wreckage, fiery ashes, and debris of brick buildings were seen on every side.Street car s tracks were melted and twisted by the heat.Here and there amid the ruins were heaps of cor pses probably that of animals, but when they got closer they found they were human beings, almost all the faces were downward, as if the un ha p unhappy victims had rushed into the streets at the first uproar of the approaching conflagration, or when the first shock of the catastrophe aroused them, only to meet a sudden and most awful death, that smoth them to the streets or within their dwellings as they ran for safty.

So many piles of corpses were seen that it was difficult to describe any in particular detail.In one street thirty four bodies of men women and children were intermingled in one awful mass, arms and legs protruding as the hapless beings fell in the last awful struggles of death.From under a large cornice stone the arm of some little girl protrudded.Most noti notable was the utter silence and the awful overpowering strnch from the smoke of the smouldering forest debris beyond, and the odor of burned flesh.

"Something seems to be wrong here""""said Dolores.

"What do you mean asked Angeline Jennings.

"Why the fiery sea which so completely destroyed this city must have been accompanied by a terrific fire hurricane which was added with great heat waves and gases from the conflagration which I believe ins antly suffocated everyone who inhaled them, and of other heat waves burning furiously. ".

"How do you make that out?" asked Jean.

"Why can't you see. Look at the bodies and tell me what you observe."

"Why nearly all the victims have their hands covering their mouths, and in some other attitude, showing they had sought relief from suffocation.And strangely still all the bodies are car on ised or roasted."

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They observed that through the middle of the town ran a tiny stream, and testing the water some of the girlscouts found it was boiling hot.Great trees in the city with roots upward, and scu scorched by fire, were strewn in every direction. Huge blocks and still hot stones of wreckeye wrecked buildings were scattered about.

"The completeness of this catastrophe"said Elsie"is evident when we can see from the appearance of things here, that no one save a handful of survivors pickedup in the flood escaped from this town.I suppose the place had been overwhelmed so suddenly and probably in the nigt night that no one was even warned.And few of these survivors were able to tell actually what had happened for they are so crazed from the experiences they passed through.Therefore it is certain that the disd disaster overtook the town suddenly and without the slightest warning."

. "This is the way I believe it may have happened"said Catherine Estrabrook."On what morning or night this may have hanpe happened the inhabitants may have found heavy clouds shrouding the whole clu country in the rear of the city, and there began to rise a wind, a het wind through the streets of the c ty city.No doubt the greater majority of the inhabitants were alarmed, but probably the Mayor of the city did not believe anything was going to happen, and probably did every thing possible to stop the panic.They might have succeeded, and might not, but nevertheless the fire came, and this town with orobsbly a great number of its people, and its houses have been blotted out of existance.Let's see if we can find the Mayors residence if it is surviving."

After a search of three hours in the ruins, they found no trace of the Mayors home nor of him and his family either.That quarter of the city was still a vast mass of blazing ruins.

"From all this I feel confident that # 30!000 is not too great an estimate of the loss of life in these towns.we have seen"said Gertrude."Probably every one in this small citymperished, and other towns may have h added other thousands to the number of victims."

"Ad this awful situation is getting hard on our country"said Mildred. From all these disasters counting the flood too, there are countless thousands of survivors who must be cared for and yet it seems cannot be.The entire southern part of Calverinia has been or is being devastated.Hundreds of farms, plantations, and countless small villiages have been destroyed by the flood, and by the fires which have been raging since early lasy y last year."

"Where could all these refugees be found!"Asked Jenn ie Turner..

"I don't know for sure ,but I have heard thsa that these survivors have taken refuge in hills, wide ravines, by the shores of lakes away from the danger of the fires and the floods, and the enemy, but still menanced by these awful forest fires made so recently by the enemy.They must be relieved, taken to places of safty, fed and clothed, but how it can be done I dont know.The work must be done quickly and yet it can not be done it seems.It is terrible.Hundreds of thousands, nay millions must perish as it is, before help can reach them.The ships that they try to use by means of the flood alone will not be any good. The whole world may have to help."

"This is awfulchad indeed." said Jennie."The streets and all the neighborhood around what a few days ago was one of the largest and most prop prosperous forest towns is now found encumbered with heapsupon heaps of dead bodies in all directions.Nearly all the dead we see are stark naked.How comes that Gertrude?"

"P robably their clothing have been burned from their bodies like so much tinder while they themselves were roasted to death."

"But how did so many come to die here without a chance of escape.It seems mysterious?"

"Well it seems to me in the vast majority of cases, that the fire or great heat seems to be the sole cause of death.We have seen great numbers of the bu bodies literally burst asunder, and lie disembowled.I believe the terrific heat did that.As you have seen in many in stances the faces of many of the victims appear quite calm, as if they were stricken down instantly where they stood, without a moments warning, or without time to appreciate for an im stant the deadly peril they were in .Others have stamped upon their faces, an expression of indescriable terror.I do not un derstand how we can stand these awful sights but it seems we do."

"Yes"said Jane,"and the entire neighborhood around the city, not counting the in side all about reeks with a horrible odor of burned flesh.A little while ago I came across a whole family of eight persons, all tightly locked in each others arms, and the bodies horribly burned.The flames just cremated the dead.We won't need no Fatigue parties of soldiers here to build ernoumosr ernormous pyres of wood and branches of trees to heap dead bodies to butn as the fire done that already.And anyhow there is no material for whih to do it with in the first place.The fire did not leave anything whatever.It looks as if we were in the advances of hell."

"It is supposed"said Elsie Ruth Mic-Whirther, "for there is nobody living yet that we have n encountered, apparently to tell the exact facts, but I believe the fire caught the city unawares while most were all asleep, and that the great sea

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of flame traveling with unknown but terrific speed, accompanied or preceded by a terrible fire w hurricane of heat and smoke and forest fire gases must have enveloped the city before any one awoke in time to escape.I believe this is being the most terrible disaster of all Southern Calverinia and southeast is being devastated."

"The entire quarters of the highest part of this city, are completely leveled to the ground by the heat of the flames"said Gertrude"forming nothing but heap upon heaps of smoking smouldering ruins, covered thickly over with white hot smoking ashes, cinders and other burned debris commingled."

"Yes"said Ma Mary Stanck"and what horrible revelations of the havoc wrough t to haum human life which these grim mounds are yet to reveal, can hardly be imagined.In the parts of the city we have gone through as far as we dared, not even a trace of the streets that existed can be hardly seen .They are buried by the falling walls of the buildings, entiraly out of sight as though they were done by a ea rthquake. Along the water front there are a few walls standing , and the ruins of the post offices office we have found.I looked through the ruins of the Bank of the city, but we could n ot open any of the vaults to see if any of the securities are intact. But the main thing that worries me is how the refugees can recieve aid.Only the armies can help them so far."

"As much help as possible has been sent as often as possible to the sur viving people of the fire horror and the flood. Steamers loaded with half crazed men, women and children from districts in the neighborhood of this awful forest fire and floods I have heard are constantly ariving eastward to other towns but the people there have to flee as the fires also threatens them.Steamers chance the perils of the flood to rescue people, and come forth as rapidly as possible to the scene of this new disaster, carrying with them provisions and clothing.I didn't think the enemy could have the heart to do all this,."

"Supposing the enemy is not responsible."

"Impossible.It'll be proved whether the enemy did it or not.Violet, and her sisters can do that.They'll find out."

"Let's return to the Orphan asylume"suggested Gertrude.

They all arived about two oclock in the afternoon, and nosooner were they preparing to drill the troops of girlscouts, when a man dressed in a gray uniform like a Glandelinian column colonel came riding hastily into the yards.They would have rushed him to make him prisoner had he not shouted;

"Don't fear I'm not an emmy.Here's my pass"and he handed to Dolores who had covered him with a rifle a paper. It proves he was a courier from general Vivienia.He was also a correspondent of the Abbieannian Herald, and he said "I'm telling you the truth girls.An awful disaster has overtaken general Vivianias army.Since he couldn't drive general Vivienia from Richees farm despite the fierce battles he has waged, Myletse had not given any warning of the destruction that was to come.He took advantage of the flood, and blasted a levee, and general vivians army was routed with a great loss of life, thirty thousand ar e drowned.General Vivianias army had looked upon the flood along this part as harm less did not believe th at it would do more than water up the land.It was a little before six oclock this o morning that the disaster came."

"How do you know!Were you a qitness of it."!Asked Dolores.

"Yes."

"You wish to give your details to Gertrude.?"

"Yes."

"All right I'll lead you to her."

When Gertrude heard what the man wished to say she said;

"Let's hear it.What has happened."

"General Vivianias army was driven back by a rush of the flood waters.Myletse tore u open a levee."

"A levee."!

"Yes."

"How did you see it.?"

"I was scoutin g with a part party of officers near a part of general Vivianias estate, when the ground trembled under my feet, n ot as it does when the earth quakes but as though a terrible struggle was going on within or under the ground. As I halted my horse everything seemed to shudder, and at the same time there was a rending crashing grin ding noise, which was deafening, and the flash that accompanied it was blinding.There was a sensation like a terrible hurricane, and where a fraction of a second before there had been a perfect calm I felt myself drawn into a strange vortex.The mysterious force leveled a row of trees near by leaving bare a space of ground fifteen yards wide, and more than a score of yards long.I was tranxfixed as it seemed to my horse not knowing in what direction to l flee.I looked tward where the sound had come from, and above the horison line there formed a great black cloud which reached high in the air..Fr From that directioj direction came explosions that sounded as though all the navies in the world were in titenic combat. Flashes played in and out the lower part of the cloud the result that the light seemed to be of magnifying power. I was upon a high hill, and saw the flood coming for general Vivianias army. It was retreating for the heights.That the army seemed doomed I felt sure

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but I was prevented from seeing what was occuring by a high spur of a hill that shut off the fu view of the full army.It is impossible for me to tell how long I stood there inert.Probably it was only a few seconds, but so vivid were my impressions that it now seems as though I.stood as a sightseer for many days.When I recovered possession of my senses, and saw the new rush of the flood spreading over everything, wiping out the farm entirely and becoming a raging sea, and racing madly to cut us off from escape too, I and my par ty raced for our avenue reaching it to beat the flood in time.All of my followers were panic stricken.

The Glandelinians were reposible for the destruction the fire did too.He by the work of his armies caused the fire to change course with an effort to make general Viviania retreat by that means.I saw the destruction too, and the fire enveloped several of the towns before the inhabitants could escape.As we reached the panic stricken columns of Viviania's army, the ground seemed to be in the throes of a terrible convuls o convolsuion.Everything was ruined while we were racing on.When general Viviania this afternoon managed to rally his army on the heights he estimated thirty thousand men must be drowned as that number are missing."

"That's terrible"said Gertrude."This is some war.The enemy fight it with fire, water, massacre, explos on, and try to get the accompaniment of the elements/. Many women who have lived even in Abbisann have escaped only to know they are windowed and childless.It must be awful. Who sent you to inform us."!

"General Viviania.He fears the flood might follow you."

"We found two women who survived the forest fire, only to die later of a fearful torment"said Gertrude.One was a foriegner and she could not speak our tongue.She was found in a cellar of a smoking ruin, by some of my men this noon .Although she was fearfully burned from head to foot, she was still alive.She died when we brought her here.The other woman was a Mexican name Guadelupia, who was employed as a Housemaid in the burned city. She was brought here also where she afterwards died.She was co nscious for a while under the care of the Regimental doctor, but could not relate much details of her experience/ She said she was awakened from sleep by the cry of fire.She went to the window and saw as it was the sky and the whole town and world aflame at once and she fainted.When she regained her senses a few hours later, she was horribly burned and glancing around, she saw two or three members of the family she worked for still living.They died before we came to the city."

"The path of this sweept of the forest fire"said the correspondent, which swept over this territory, was markedout by me in a strange manner.The vinicity of the flood shore, was swept by a whirlwind of hot air, which ripped tors and shattered everything along shire shore in its path, but did not set the trees nearest the water edge afire.On the other hand the city, and adjoining parts of the city were enveloped in the flames that consumed everything.Where the force of the fire hurricane was the greatest strong houses of brick were leveled like pasteboard. I've seen both.The town was hit three days ago.This town had stood half a century.The tremendous force of the fire hurricane had swept all before it. But Myletze could not accomplish by fire, and so he tried flood."

Sometime after, Gertrude warned the whole force secretly not to tell a thing to Angeline Richee, untill the report could be confirmed.

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COMBINATION OF HORRORS. FLOOD SHORE SWEPT BY WHIRLWINDS OF FIRE. REPORTS CONCERNIG THE DISASTER TO GENERAL VIVIANIA. RESC E VESSELS CATCH FIRE AND BURN TO WATERS EDGE. ONLY ONE ESCAPEW ESCAPES THE FLOOD FILLED WITH DEAD BODIES AND FLOATING RES WRECKAGE.

N o doubt many of the readers throughout the world might be asking themselves whonthey reac read of these""""BEAUTIFUL""""" disasters, what manner of nation can Glandelinia be.Was she mad. Was she literally a hell overwhelming crhstian christiandom.Maybe I too would be blamed partly for it or criticsed.Maybe the Reader would say;"Maybe the writer himself is heartless.Or also couldn't the author have selected a better or at least a more refined character for an opposing nation? This Glandelinda is bold, extremely dangerous, given to such wic edness as to commit horrors which happened which I did not dare to write here, but which far surpassed the disasters I have written, which in horror made these catastrophes seemed pleasant indeed.Glandelinia we all know is a foe of Our Blessed Lord, rather forward in her disaster plans and in carrying them out self willde willed,, and but stay, reader lets get in a word. What the reader may think of Glandelinia is holy compared what she really is.Keep her in the back ground, and don't worry about her.We throw up our hands at these disasters, and grant the full force of these awful naughty occurances.Indeed there are 10!000!000 terrible immeasurable disasters that have occured which though not floods or fires, really surpass the flood and fire,and great disasters too horrible to be told.It would spoil the story, make it a bloody rotten book to even write a line of these disasters.There are many flaws in Glandelin ia too.But what then?These awful disasters really are not beyond repair Abbisann is is a real gem in the face of all christian countries in the world. It bore up with many a trial for the Love of God, and Glandelin ia cannot daunt her, although Abbisannias strength, fury and bravery is beyond all exaggerated statements, it has nothing within its means which it cannot retrieve the disaster when communications are restored, and her efforts will be that titanic struggle for justice and goodness so noticable in many good nations, and in them we at least speak not for good nations only on this line---pardonable, even Glandelin ia's irrestible and savage fury is not an exaggeration of what we all know ad held fast, to the far more frightful disasters of the west and north.But enough on the score of Glandelinians awful disasters.Let us hope that in due time the Vivian Girls will find proofs of the Abbisann Regin reign of terror, that Abbisannia will come out of the sorrow and horror glorious and a gem of the world, and that the ferocity of powerful Glandelin ia may be subdued and thrown flat into the dust which we all admire to read of a vanquished nation we do not cherish to think of.

Gertrudes dialogue with the man who had brought the bad news, while drawing the drawing the man into prominent notice, g i gained him a host of admirers and a great number of friends among the girl and boy scouts, ad also and also their soldier escorts..... As Gertrude and Dolores were taking a strolll about the yard ,shortly after the mans departure to bring the news to the aurthorities which he hoped to reach, they were accosted by a younger boyscout inpurple knickerbockers his expression of a mixture of fear, worry, and witsfulness.

"Well my boy"said Dolores, who was about half a headtaller than this new boy="what can I do for you?"

"I'm so glad you didn't let the enemy get ahead of you.Glandelinia she is mean, she made this flood for nothing, and I'm all alone.My parents are dead.My baby sister"here the little man began to cry" I won't see any more. I didn't know what to do so I came to the army and here I am."

"He's another flood victim of losses- -got it bad." whispered Gertrude in a kindly tone."There's lots of cases like that.."

"Here"said Dolores;"take some Marshmellows...."

"The youg young boyscout accepted the candy, and tried to cheer up, he therefore xeased his crying, though frequently he gave vent to deep sighs."

"Come and wit down here." continued Dolores."Now what's your name??"

"Thomas joshia.My pa was a general in our christian armies and got killed at P e Phelantoburg Phelantonburg.He had lots of men die for him in battle.My mother and fathers sister and mother too and my baby sister died in the flood at Mildred Greenburg."

"It would be fun getting back at the enemy." observed Gertrude."Did the enemy do that often elsewhere."!

Tom relented into a man smile.

"Haven't you any friends here?" persued Gertrude.

"They are my friends and are new to me, but that doesn't make me feel better"sobbed Tom in a fatal relapse.The Glandelinians are all mean, murderers , and nothing is good with them.I've shot many of their officers already and I'll shoot more.

"You are going a little too far on that, and I'm afraid you don't know the Glandelinians well enough." said Gertrude;and she added with ingenuous modesty"Dolores and myself and others hereare all good girls.You just wait Tom till you get older then you won't have to stand any nonsense from these Glendelinians.It's too bad your father had died in battle, but I' sure part of his army is still existing, and you'll have hiscommand some day when you grow to be a man, and you'll be riding round on a horse, dignified and high hatted and-- and ---and"-

"Boo--oo" interrupted Tom,"I didn't want my father to die.I didn't want him to die at all.I want to go to heaven right now, and see him, and mamma, and little Marie and all of em."

"I'll tell you waht!!."Said Gertrude,,"Let's be friends, and then you won't be lonesome.what do you say Tom.?"

With one hand rubbing his eyes, Tom extended the other hand to both Gertrude and Dolores.Each of these young girlscout generals shook it warmly. And the boy was entirely ignorant of whom he had been speaking too.We didn't know they were two of the chief girlscout leaders outside of Angeline Richee being first. Master Toms case was a fair specimen of the horrors that had been a resultant of the great flood, and other war horrors. Hardly no one had escaped it, and still true to the likeness the disasterwhad seized upon its victims with various degrees offearfulmalignity.Under an ordinary attack, the victim feels fully convinced sincehe lost everything that life even is not worth living.So many boys who were in the scout force the same was the case, and games, meals, even candies had for a long time lost their zest.

Like the qualities of mercy, sorrow over losses of parents and loved ones is "mightiest in the mightiest" and the man or woman or elder children when afflicted is a piteous sight indeed..After five oclock supper, the whole force of scouts took recreation till six, when a ba bell summoned them to the hall of studies.Here they were at liberty to sort and examinetheir new drill articles, and write their parents in wireless telegrams to give them assurance they were safe, that is those who still had their parents living. Tom on entering noticed that a great number of girls instead of seating themselves were all st n standing in silence.Following their implicit guidance, he too stood besides the table, and fixed an inquiring look upon a man who from a raised platform commanded a view of the entire hall.whiles whilst Tom was still wondering why the girls were so slow about sitting down, he wa was surprised to see one of the girls(Jane Wellfort) stride up to him and say quite loudly;

"What do you watch us.Sit down like the rest."

"He asked "But miss wo why don't you sit down?" and this as he took his seat.

"We are the leaders and got to stand." she answered, and she smiled as she walked away.Instead of beginning to study his articles, Tom sat for some time curiously watching the movements of those about him.Many of the older boys were fiving up something on pepers, and the new comers were also at work while two of them were rummaging in one of the desks in a vain attempt to find something which not knowing it they had in their coat pockets.He still wondering observed that the girls who were standing seemed to have their eyes on every one.Presently Penrod entered the study hall, and the man on on the platform retired still further to the boys surprise. Tom gazed atbthe new official for some moments and then turned to one whose name was Harry Turner.

"I say what is the name of that boy?He is dressed like a prince."!

"Sh-h-h-h" said Harry.

"Throwing a look of di g disgust at his admonitor, Tom turned to another whose name was Joe, who sat at his right side, and repeated the question.

"I don't know"returned Joe."But he is one of the boyscout officers."

"Say what are you going to hou do an hour after this?"

"I'm going to write home, and ask them to send my sister to be a scout."

"Oh don't be in a hurry about that." whispered Tom"We have enough girlscouts now, and --and---" Just then a hand was laid upon his arm, and Tom lifting his eyes saw a girlscout before him(Jennie Turner) looking rather severe than otherwise;

"Keep still in here Thomas"ad and make no referunces about too many girls here.And no talking, take out your papers and go to work."

"Say little girl who are you?"

"Never mind how or who I am. Just do as you are asked."

"How did you come to know my name?"

The girlscout bit her lip to restrain a smile and moved to another part of the hall where she stood.The secret of her knowing Toms name was very simple. A dirry is made of each boys and girls name and of the description, size and age and color of hair.One glance at the dairy willinform the presiding officer whether each boy or girl be present or at the post, and in s consequence of this system, a boy or girl cannot absent himself or herself from ranks or duty for any period beyond half an hour at the most without being missed.

Then Gertrude proceeded to take a seat at one of the tables, and Dolores took out her writing materials, and started making ma s maps. One of the boys who did not yet seem to kn ow the rules took up his hat, and walked tward the door.Just as he was opening it his progress was arres ted by Dolores'voice.

"John Fairview go back to your chair."This in a very imperiative tone.

"I'm going out for a stroll Miss Jennings." said the boy pausing with his hand on the door knob to impart the information.

"Go back to your seat please."

And with a look of pat e patient unmisi unmierited persecution, John returned to his place, casting wayward glances on the way at several who were giving him warning looks at his mistake.A little later the bell rang, and all of the boy and girlwcouts repaired to the yard to enjoy a few minutes of recreationbefore taps taps sounded.This over they recited night prayers in common, and retired to their dormitories for the night.Of the boys Penrod was in charge. p r During this time before retiring Gertrude went outside to pray.One of the boys before going to bed getting the permission from Penrod took out his writing materials, and delivered himself of the following letter;

"St Gertrudes Orphan Asylum, July
30th 19I3.

MY dear Papa, and Mother,;

"I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well, hoping thid leaves you the same.We have during our trip reached St Gertrudes p orphan asylum which before this had been abandoned, and it is a pretty jolly sort of a place and I am not one bit surprised, and lots of new boys have come.We saw what the forest fire did yesterday and this morning and are going to see more to morrow before we renew our trip down the flood.Tell my uncle and Aunt I will telegraph a letter to them soon. Tell papa and my sisters my love.Several of our number had been killed by the enemy but I am o all right.Never fear.I'll take good care of myself.Good bye.I am going to study hard.

Your loving son,
Salonie Frander."

"While the boy Green who had from carolessness kicked Gertrude on the shins of her leg was addressing the envelope distenined to carry abou away some information he too had written to his parents he felt some one poking him in the back.On turning he perceived a hand extended from under the bed holding a bit of paper. Green recieved the note.It read as follows;

"Will you apologize to Gertrude Angeline whom you kin kicked in the leg. Do you know who she is?she is one of our highest girlscout leaders.You she should not have been so careless.Yrs.

Frank Wilsome

"P.S. Beccareful.If you get on the wrong side of her I'm sorry for you."

To which Green elaborately replied;

"How did I know shewas a superior girlscout officer.And why did not all the other boys tell me so.And how did I know she was standing so close behind me.But I am sorry, and did apol isize this morning when I met her.But she is still angry with me.How is her knee.Is it very sore.I am going to be careful hereafter as she punished me by not allowing me any time off for a week.When you write home give my love to your papa and mamma.

Yrs.
Green."

The novel sight of hundreds of boys undressing as one, struck Thomas as being rather unsual than otherwise.Indeed he was so absorge absorbed and interested in a humorous survey of this spectacle, that he stood stock still grinning broadly and incessantly for some minutes.Suddenly a hand upon his arm called him down from his humurous heights.He turned.It was to his surprise Angeline Jennings who had come to tell Penrod something.

"Thomas"she whispered"Are you busy with anything just now?"

"N o Miss"answered Thomas wondering whether she had something on hand for him to do before going to bed.

"Well then after I go out you had better undress and get to bed.It's past time.They are all in except you.You can't sleep well standing up you know."

And as she left, Penrod resumed the saying of his beads as he continued his route up and down the passage formed between the beds.

"Heck"growled the boy."A fellow can't look cockeyed here, but he gets hauled up for it here.And they say she ain't severe.I don't see any harm in looking around." and sadly he proceeded to pull of his uniform shirt.He had just succeeded in getting the garment free of one arm, when he perceived on e of the boys some eleven or twelve beds further off sitting up.The boy caught his gla glance and smiled.The smile therefore brought sunshine back into Thoms heart, and suspend ing further operations on his uniform shirt, he waved his left arm.Instead of taking this friendly demonstration in the spirit in which it was given, the

boys face lengthend into dismay, while his eyes glanced apprehensively in the direction of Penrod.Thomas therefore followed the movement of Freds eyes, turned and yes---there was Penrod bearing down upon him.

"Well I'm out of luck "he thought, as he slipped out of his clothes with unusually marvelous speed."If he isn't making for me now." and leaping into bed he buried his face into the pillow.

"Young boyscout"whispered Penrod, bending down over him"We want to monkey business in this dormintory."

"No what sir?"

"No monkey buisness."

"Whqt What's that sir.?"

"Sh-h-h-h- don't talk so loud.I mean you musn't talk, whisper, make signs, or creq create disturbances.If you do the boys won't have you in here.Do you under stand me?"

"Yes but----"

"That will do, go to sleep now, ad if you have any objections to make, Miss Angelinia Richee will hear you in the morning."

"He's a nice one."grumbled Thomas to his pillow."He won't give a fellow a chance to explain."

Half an hour later he was sleeping a dreamless sleeeep.

pang, dang, dang, dang, dang dang.

"Well for the love of mike! What's th the matter now"cried Gertrude in the midst of this clatter, as she jumped out of bed and rubbed her eyes.

The cause of the din was a large brass bell with a steel tongue, which Penrod was ringing right lustily.Gertrude looked about her, all the girlscout and boys with the exception of some of the leaders were up and dressing.She then realized and lost her fright, for she at first believed it was a warning of the flood or the forest fire being upon the home.

"It's a little too early for me." thought Gertrude,"But if I don't get up they will all think they have a right to sleep longer, and she therefore got up dressed and went into the boys room asking Penrod-

"Did you ring the bell for them ?"

"Yes."

"Why don't they all get up then. ?"

"Penrod saw that some of them did not arise. Jack Sanders was peacefully dozing off when a hand was laid upon him.

"Jack, Jack did you hear the bell?"

"WDid I?I should say I did.At first I thought it was the warning of a first But that's all right Penrod, but I guess I don't care about getting up just now It's six thirty and oh I feel so sleepy.You know its not going to bed that kills a person it is getting up early."

This sentence was barely out of his mouth, when as it appeared to the boy there was a mild form of earthquake shocks and the like in the vicinity, and before he could realize what had happened a t all, he was sprawling on the floor,, with his mattress on top.

"I say Penrod, what did you do that for?" he sputtered"You'll have to fight me for that to day." but Penrod was already half way down the aisle.

"If that's the way they treat a follow the first day at this spot, what'll will they do on the trip?" he murmured."I don't think this scout regiment is much good anyhow.I' I'm going to make him fight, and then I'm going to ask for my resignation.They always bawled me out as saying I'm so careless anyhow.This is my last day.I'm done.Through."

"We'll accept no reis resignations on any condition just now"said Gertrude coming up as she had overheard what he waid."If you inve intend to resign n ow you'll be under arrest.We can can you but you'll not resign."

On rising, the boys were allowed half an hour for washing and dressing as this would soon be the last chances for a long time to co cleanthemselves properly.Then came the Regimental Mass, followed by Holy Communion, and then the Mess.At nine o clock on this particular day----they had what is called a small instructive class, that is all the leaddr leaders of the respective portions of the troop gave their boys and girls a short talk,, and app i appointed lessons for raft paddling for the next day.Gertrude told all "On August the second we are to resume the trip. Many of the boys were mildly surprised, and a trifle dismayed, when he dis they discovered that one of the main leaders was Gertrude Angeline.But after listening for some minutes from her opening speech they who were new boys concluded that perhaps things might not be so bad if they are willing to do as they are expected.The instructions was compressed into an hour and for recration the force of boys and even the cavarly escorts had the rest of the day free. Gertrude and her leaders however decided at eleven oclock to make another in vestigation of the ruins.

Shortly after instructions Andersonia Marry, Francis Green, accompanied by a strange boyscout, approached Thomas.

"Tom here is a very excellent fried of mine, Whilliam Wanders, and I'm sure if you are all right he'll be a great friend of yours.

"Whilliam and Thomas shook hads, while Whillie murmured----"Happy to see you."

"Won 't you take some chewing gum?" inquired Thomas.

The chewing gum was gratefully recieved, and thereofre the friendship of the two was firmly established between the two.

"Have you been out on a stroll yet?!!Asked Whilliam.

"No, and that's a fact; Anderson we ought to go ad see what we can find at Magazine Creek."

"Obtaining permission from Gertrude, they set out on their walk along a railroad track which further on disappeardout of sight under the inundation, and in course of time discovered the flood had increased a considerable amount. When on their return, they came near the home, Anderson proposed that they should pass through the small swamp.This swamp was a favorite resolrt for the opr orphans who used to be in the building.It lay just beyond the home yards, and was welll shaded with tall graceful pine trees.It chanced on this particular day, that Gertrude Angeline and her leaders were pasing through this swamp on their way to the burned city. Gertrude caught sight of the trio from afar.

"Oh I say girls." she exclaimed"Here comes the man who kicks girls from behind and steps on their toes.Come here you young careless boob" she added addressing herself to Green"and we'll settle our accounts."

"Green"sh s whispered Anderson earnestly"Let's go back, lets run, those girls with her won't let any one interfere, and Gertrude has been acting queer since you gave her that awful kick on the leg.She takes it as if you kicked her country. You are in for it."

"I'm not going to run from girls unless I have to." answered Green"she surely can't hit me either as I'm in uniform" and she and he walked straight on in tending to pass by Gertrude, and her following of officers.But Gertrude put herself squarely in the trios path.

"Where are you going Mr wild horse?" she inquired."And what are you doing wha way out here where you don't belong."

"Penrod gave me permission to go out for a stroll to the creek.I'm going to general Vivians camp this year.Now's your shin?"

"Getting sassy are you." persued Gertrude reddening with anger at the reort retort."You've got to answer for this, you careless rogue.My leg has an awful sore on it."

"But how can I answer for it.I didn't do it on purpose."

"You've got to fight me with boxing gloves on to night." she said.

"But I don 't want to fight with girls, you see."

"I don't care a blade of grass what you want.I'll teach you to sass me.You can't get out of it."

"Can 't I though?Catch me Miss Gertrude if you can ,"and as Green s poke he dashed away in the direction of Magazine Creek.It took some seconds or so for Gertrude to realize this sudden and utterly unexpected change of front, then with a shout of wrath she leaped on a horse near by, and gave chase.Before leaving home ut it must be explained, Green had made a vcew vow to his parents not to fight with any one under any circumstances.He was a good runner for his age, but he could not as he observe outrun a horse.Although he had obtained a start ofsome twenty five yards or so, he perceived he was immediately losing ground extre ely quick.For all that the serenity of habitual c to his face did not slacken on one bit, and as he turned his head from time to time to see how close his persuer was his expression was as tranquil as though he were rasi racing for sport.The scene was an interesting one.Green was followed By Whilliam and Andersonia, while Gertrude was cheered on by her comrades who were also hot in persuit.Before Green had got clear of the swamp, he saw that he was sure of being captursed unless he could introduce some no new feature into his flight.His invention did not fail him at all.Suddenly he wheeled sharply and assisted by a tree he caught hold of turned at left angles to his former line of retreat.In nimbleness Gertrudes horse could not execute such a movement, and before Gertrude could adjust her horse to the change, the boy had obtained a new direction of flight.All were now speeding tward a line of forested bluffs which fronted the swamp, and divided it off from the flooded territory beyond.But as Gertrude was on horseback it was evident that Green could not hold out a minute to gain the bluffs. Every second Gertrude came nearer and nearer and she had a whip upraised.The horse was coming along in a full gallop, and now the interval between the two was scarcely ten feet.

"It's no use "added Whilliam Wonders as he ceased running"You cannot escape."

Green was now within twenty yards of the bluff, while his girl persuer was but six or seven feet behind.Suddenly picking up a big tree branch Green came to a full stop turned and as his persuer shot on, whisked aside, and stuck the branch between the horses legs.

FOR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF
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COOK, ILLINOIS
(Vote for One)

4.91

The horse "Took" the branch offered him and went right on , not as a runner, but more after the manner of a flying squirrel. He came down all fours on a soft bank of earth sending Gertrude Angeline flying like an arrow shot from a bow into the creek a little way off. She went in with a splash, ad both in no wise injured nor scared picked themselves up and Gertrude swam to the shore. But before she was well on the shore Andersonia had come to the rescue with a suggestion.

"Green, green he cried" running as he spoke, at an angle tward the highest part of the bluff "Run this way for all your worth. We are near the bluff, and if we can make it, we'll har them out."

Long before Andersonia had ceased speaking, Green was making for that prospective sanctuary. His eyes grew brighter. He felt sure of himself now. Once upon the bluff, Andersonia, and Whilliam and himself might bid defiance to all outside. Nearer and nearer loomed the hill one hundred and fifty feet more and all was well. Gretrude now on foot was far behind, and was not running fast as she couldn't because of her lam leg. A boy coming seemingly from no where and thinking he was a deserter stepped in his way, and Green struck out with his fist, and hurled the boy violently to the ground. It was an ugly blow. But Green did not pause to make any inquiries. Throwing himself forward he proceeded to rush on, but two more intercepted him, and he proceeded to strike them blow after blow. When the first boy was knocked down he had incurred an ugly cut on the head. The pain was intense, more than enough to bear without the savage fall produced by Green. "Stand, give up will you." screamed Gertrude coming from behind.

"Give up what girl?" gasped Green, who now dizzy and weak from so much running, and suffering as he was from the heat, could not could not take her command seriously.

The girls contin ued after him. Greens condition was becoming serious. He was badly jaded, and Adersonia and Whilliam who had attempted to come to his assistance were forcily held back by Dolores and Mary Stanck.

"N ow will you give up and stand you runn ing fool?" asked Gertrude.

"I think you have asked me that before---"

Green never finished his speech, even while he was still trotting, a vigorious jerk at this juncture brought his jaws together with a snap, and sent him to the ground with almost lightning like speed. Gertrude An geline stood over him. The boy whom Green had kn ocked down in his flight still laid there, he had been knocked sense'ess by the blow.

"Dolores" cried Gertrude "Run over to the creek and get some water---quick look at that you low lived careless imp" she continued addressing Francis Green "Do you see what you have done, and you sai! you wouldn't hit any one in uniform." and as Gertrude spoke she seized the terrified boy by the collar, and shook him with the energy of boiling rage.

"He got in my way." howled Green.

"Uge" growled Gertrude, casting an anxious look at the 1 pallid face of the boy laying there. "If I had more time for myself and didn't have to go to the ruins I'd be happy to spend my while remaining life in shaking you up. I ought to lash you with a cowhide. That 's it Dolores" h she contin ued, as the girl with a canteen of water bent over the prostrate form "Throw it over his face; he'll be all right in a moment or so."

From excitement all this time Gertrude seemed to be quite absent minded. With her eyes fixed anxiously on the prostrate form, her hands and arms her hands and arms were working to and fro with such speed and energy that i was impossible to say where Green at that time had his head. He almost looked headless. She p made no pause even, when a second later the prosptare form moved and the boys face twitched.

"Hurray he is coming to" cried one of the boys, who had just thrown u opn open the boys coll ar. William was right. The boy opened his eyes, then with an effort raised himself on his arm. He gazed about him in a dazed manner till his eyes were fixed upon the tear stained face of the one working over him. He brightened at once, and arose feeble but smiling.

"Francis Green" said Gertrude severely" before I let you go you must beg mine and this boys pardon, for kicking me on the shin, and for knocikng him down.

"I'll not."

"You'll not eh.!" and Gertrude annotated this remark with a more vigourous shake than usual adding this with a few good hard slaps on the face. She made it felt too as she was a strong girl for her age and very tough muscled.

"Ouch. Stop. Yes I beg your pardon."

"Much obliged said Gertrude seriously" but go ahead finish. You didn't beg his pardon."

"Ow, I will Ouch I beg your pardon for hitting you."

"Now "contin ued Gertrude, "I wan you to promise me not to be so careless as to go kicking girls and steppin g on their feet. Do you hear. We want no careless boys o in my Companies."

"Oh yes ,yes,yes, "o fie Cried Francis Green, now shaken into a ball. "I promise upon my word, cross my heart hope to die. Oh Miss Arronburg , please, please please let me go."

Gertrude acceded to this request, and Green slunked away to rejoin his comrades, who seeing Gertrude had caught him fled. Morally speaking Gertrude du cured him. No one ever was carelessly kicked again. Sometimes roughhousing is the only cure for careless and Gertrude knoew kn ew how to do it.

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Gertrude reached the site again, and with her followers went still further on. To her it was indeed like a glipse of hell at a distance and as if the flood a little beyond was the only water in that awful place. It seemed to be a Hell that however consumed all lost souls so that not a trace of them was seen. They went along the shore by means of a smaller raft made recently by some of the boys at Gertrudes command, and they continued on untill they reached what was the harbor of the ruined city and realized then therefore that the flood was really over the river and that they were on its shore. If a thousand Mt Pelees had been blown skyward at once, and if molten fire fell from all these blown up volcanoes like a cloudburst of rain upon the city and landscapes and upon the helpless river craft found burned down to the waters edge the scene could not have even then be believed. The flood waves seemed to rocked the red remains of the ships in sympathy, and even death was upon the face of the waters of the flood.

Gertrude could see that the whirlwind of fired from the forest blaze that burst in fury and envelôped the city of San Padrer, had also swept the shores along for a distance as far as eye could reach clear of every inhabitants and living thing, save one or two ships, which had been rectified from her moorings by the scorched and burned survivors among her crew, and then crawled pitifully away with dismantled rigging and a charred sheets an unrecognizable hulk, and with dead men lying where they fell parched to death by the awful heat of the flames that so suddenly enveloped the town. Gertrude wondered how the fire could have trayeled so fast and yet consume everything so that only here an there amid the haze of wa smoke rising from the shore were still stading smoking tree trunks more skele tons of them. Eighteen hundred river vessels were riding at anchor in the harbor of this town as Gertrude realized when the fiery breath of the conflagration we wrapt their shrouds and masts in sheets of flame and smoke. How no one escaped was a tremendous mystery.

The girls girls had some difficulty in learning the details of the disasters from the fire but after they had traveled on further they came upon a spot where there were a number of refugeex refugees. The story of the destruction of the city forest and shipping is given in this detail. When the fire was approaching the town there came first a terrific gale of hot wind and blinding clouds of smoke , nd as if in terror of that withering blast, the left wing of the fire seemed to recede from the waters and go eastward in oa long wave. For a length of fourty three miles at once it swept backwards, seemingly tward a vortex of a whirlwind produced by the terrific heat. But from the northeast, a flood of dreadful flames, from the seething valley and forested plain beyond, rushed in pursuit of the flaming flames of the other section of the con flagration. In another moment the mighty sea of flames from the main arm of the conflagration rose in wrath and turned upon persuer and pursued. The three became one fearful tidal wave of flame sweeping tward the city of St Francis, producing a storm of wind, and it shrulfed the town and all the shipping in no time, all save one small sailing craft that struggled through the pall of dense smoke and hurricane of sparks to bear the frightful tidings to the neighboring towns.

The waters of the flood nearest the shore were thick with the wreckage from the flood disasters further north, and most of this d osest to shore which were dry smoked and caught fire from the terrific heat, and in the midst of it all the sailors from the burning ships, and the terror stricken human bein gs fleeing from their burning homes to the shores of the flood were struggling des parately for life. And as they fought and chocked, and fainted and sank, the fiery hell surged hot and fiercely up and around them and hastened the merciful end. Few in deed there were that came out of that awful baptism of fire, and lived. Those few were those who managed to escaped the burning city and threw themselves into the water, and managed to keep themselves afloat untill picked up by ships boats and other rescuers whose heroic leaders braved the terrors of the dreadful conflagration upon the work of rescue. The hero of them all was a small gasoline boat name unkown which not only plowed its way through the floating debris and trunks of trees and the mass of floatin g wreckage which fillen the waters of the flood closest to shore, but made several daring attempts to land sailors in small boats and rescue the people on the flaming shores. The one vessel that escaped destruction in the harbor was the Arbieannian ship Tam of but nothing was learned.

Gertrudes raft cast anchor off the harbor at eleven oclock, on the first of August, the third day I suppose after the disaster. Gertrude however foun d landing impossible as the conflagration still raging within sight was belching its death dealing fires. Gertrude Angline first saw a g tremendous cloud of smoke rushing up upward with terrific rapidity and moving tward the north, completely and in an instant enveloping the whole northern sky in a sheet of flame and smoke. The fire was traveling northwardly. By superhuman efforts, the raft was backed away from the superheated shore. They asked some of the refugees if they could give any details as to the suddeness of the conflagration, but all they knew was that nearly 10!000 of their friends were lying dead, contorted and burned out of human semblance among the ruins of the town .They couldn't tell how many had died and how many had escaped. On the way back tward the southern end of the town Gertrudes officers and paddlers had a thrilling experience. The fire had changed course and hot sulphurious pine fumes began to envelope the harbor of the town and Gertrude ordered the boys to paddle with alll speed and steer for the open waters.

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The boys on the raft closed the tents to shut out the smoke as much as possible.The other boys remained at the paddling untill they were forced to seek shelter from the, the heat or be badly burned, and the raft with no guiding hand, ran its own race for safty.They had in the meantime rescued a number of people from the shore.Some of those had even in their fright jumped overboard from the raft before they could be restrained and were drowned in the flood.

The suddenness of the catastrophe could indeed be shown by the unusual experience ofthe very boy and girlscouts on the raft. Since they now for a time couldn't go ahead on their trip it was their work therefore to rescue as many people as possible and bring them to the buildings of the home.Five men old and aged who had gone through horrible experience died while the boyscouts were assisting in the work of pushing the raft tward the shore.Even while the rescue work was going on for a distance along the shore as far as distance can be viewed the sky was full of smoke, and seemed molten at times, and because of the winds blowing from shore the raft was covered with ashes.The survivors who were rescued were loud in their praises of Gertrude Gertrudes troop and the heroic conduct of the girl and boyscout leaders in steering the raft out of danger with their own hands loaded with refugees one woman of whose hands were badly burned.The wind carried sparks from the smouldering embers which kept falling on the raft for miles after she got under way.

One of the survivors told the girls that when the fis fire struck the town, an ocean going river sta steamer sank first, then other shipping lying in the harbor were suddenly tossed high in the air on the crest of the upheavened flod prodo produced by the fire hurricane, whirled around and torn in splinters.Others with steam up, crowding on with all speed to even risk the dangers of the flood to escape the flames, or rather stronger to say to escape what did seem like the fullfillment of the prophecy of the Bible of the coming of the end of the world were overtaken by the surge of flames from the burning houses on all sides of the harbor and burned to the waters edge.Although most of these ships went down aflame and even with explosions n ot all of their brave crew suffered death, and many had been rescued by escaped fugitives. On the return Gertrude and her followers experienced great difficulty in reaching the place where the Orphan Home u buildings were.Appalling sounds were issuing frombth distant hills far behind the home which were shrouded in dense clouds of smoke.Some of the girl and boyscouts tried to obtain photographs of the great fire so they could show the truth of their being there.suddenly as they were preparing to land there was a tremendous explosion.Ashes began to fall upon the raft as burning embers, and those on the raft could see a black cloud rolling high in the air and lots of objects were falling fast.Gertrude ran into the tent, and the boys rowed on to try and escape the terrible heat, which at times was almost unbearable. The raft rocked on the waves of the flood, and so rough was the waves at times that it was expected it would be torn apart.They hen heard a voice pleading from the water.It was some fugitive in the water.Three of the boys managed to haul him upon the raft.It was indeed almost unbearably hot but all had to remain on the raft to continue the work.Even refugees had been brought aboard who were dead or dying.Even little children a score of them were moaning for water, and the scoutscdid everything for them.Even water was brought to the poor little feest fire victims but w en it was held to their swollen lips they were unable to swallow because of the ashes and heat which had injured their throats when fleeing the raging flames.One or two little girlstook water but could not swallowsd badly were were their throats burned burned. They died a few minutes later.

All the time they to traveled tward their destin ation the landscapes were on fire, and from the land came drafts of terrible heat. . In the fury of the work one of the boys accidentally fell overboard from the raft.The water was almost hot enough to parboil him but a wave soon swept in from the west bringing with it cooler water.He was caught in the receding wave, and carried down the waters.But he managed to swim tward the raft to which he clung g nand finally was hauled aboard by his friends.One of the men who was in dreadful agony, and kept begging pitsously to be put out of his misery was being constantly attended to.Seeing an upturned boat floating past, Gertrude asked several of the boys to swim to it and bring it over so it could be used for rescue purposes.The boys succeeded in getting the boat righted but instead of being able to return to the raft with it they h d had to call for a tow line which was thrown to them, and the boat was made fast and then hauled to the raft.The boys were taken on.One of the boys seeing a floating skiff he swam to it also,and brought it to the raft.As he reached it he saw far off a wall of trees a mile long burst into flames. One man told Gertrude of a woman who was burned to death on the forested shore while she held her four year old girl in her arms protecting it with her somebody from the flames that filled the air.The child was alive long as the poor mother ceased to suffer, but it too was partly burned..Another man who was an officer of one of the ships was the thirdpurser of the ship.According to his report the fire struck the town a little past midnight and so quickly that only fifty thousand managed to escape, and the rest from twenty or more thousands were believed to have perished.

They had a long trip back indeed to the home this day of August the First, and when they had about two quarters the distance to go yet, there was somewhere a a sudden and terrific report, and an ugly dark mass of rolling cloud, which spreading over the sky and the ground for some distance suddenly caused the forest within sight not burned yet to suddenly break into a "solid "flame of fire.This

flame on the forest seemed to be traveling with hurricane speed, as it spread along the tree tops, enveloping all the forest within sight as if in a perfect maelstrome of flame.A terrible hot wind came off shore, and probably from the effects ofthe explosion flaming brands, mud, burning ashes, as even hot stopaxas if a volcano was in eruption rained upon the raft.The raft fortuna e fortunately even on top was too wet to catch fire, as the canvass tents also had been wetted to prevent them from catching fire.Another unfortunate who had been fearfully burned died at this moment.The refugees who were not injured helped the boys in their efforts to reach their destinatio) destination, as amid the rain of fire fought the flood debris to enable the raft to push through.

Finally thet came within sight of the buildings of the home

Finally they came within sight of the building of the home.Again somewhere in the distance a frightful explosion was heard to the northward.Then a cloud of fire toppling and roaring swrpt with lightning speed up a mountain side, and spread over the whole territory within their sight.They were all watching this awful sight when with a most frightful roar, a cyclone of fire swept down to the waters edge burning all before it, and destroying the trees at the very closest edge of the shore.None of the girls and boys could ever forget the fiery horrid chooking strange whirlwind which enveloped their raft.Every one who had time rushed into their tents or into their wagons.A number of them were badly burned by the heat--not so badly as if they would have been too close.When the fire came again to this forested part of the shore Gertrude Angeline were going to the middle of the raft, and when they got there despite the heat they found the whole shore afire northward of the home, and the flames though resisted by clearings fought itself forward till three oclock, when a great rift in the forest came to the rescue and the homes were saved.At this junctiure they again heard an explosion and Gertrude ordered the paddlers not to push in shore till it was safer.One of the boyscouts was horribly burned.He somehow or other had inhaled flames, and wanted to jump into the water.The girls tried to persuade him, but he seemed crazed and did jump overboard and hung onto a line for a while.Then he was hauled back onto the raft.Every one this awful day acted bravely indeed,and indeed they were all too brave to be burned to death.Gertrude decided that the storm of fire did not take five minutes to travel along the shore as far as it managed to go before checked by the rift.One of the men a sea manof fifty years of age and so frightfully burned that he could not live having inhalted flame, and he said in weak tones that he was the last man alive on the ship he was taken from.The captian was trying to reach some floating plan k plank in the floode And such was the pi poisono s nature of the smoke that it seemed to burn worse than fire.Branches struck people and they fell dead. The winds threatened to move the wagons off the raft.The wa e of fire was said to be bigger than the smoke cloud that accompanied it.The fire within the sight of all burned everything nearly at once.The explosions, smoke and fire all cease and passed on in three or four minutes, but the skelt skeletons of the trees burned for hours and the whole land scape even then was a wall of white smudgy smoke.Three seamon related to their rescuers that when they were roused in the ships by the approach of the fire they saved themselves by leaping from the decks onto the roof of a floating house.The house from the weight weight and the speed of their leap rolled over and over in the water nearly drowning the three men.Finally when the house righted itself they managed to clambor on top of the floating house which by this time had ceased rolling, and from this witness ed the destruction on shore..

CHAPTER NINE

GERTRUDE LEARNS OF A SYMPATHETIC WORLD COMING TO THE RESCUE.
ABBIEANN IA LEADS IN THE WORK OF RELIEVING FOREST FIRE AND FLOOD SUFFERERS.
IN WHICH JACK SANDERS USURPS MINOR ORDERS WITHSTARTLING RESULTS..
FAMINE STRICKEN SUFFERERS GATHER FURTHER NORTH AT THE CITY OF TURPO.
IN WHICH CERTAIN BOYSCOUTS GET INTO MANY DIFFICULTIES! AND HOLD AN ASTONISHING INTERVIEW WITH AN GELINE RICHER.
THE FIERY TOUCH OF NATURE MADE BY THE ENEMY THAT MADE THE WORLD KIN.

While Gertrude and her followers were waiting for a slight abatement of the heats of the fires, she somehow probably through wireless ma messages which alone would be obtained despite the catastrpopes, that by now ma y many of the nations of the world had a realization of the stupendous calamities that was still sweeping Galverin ia, and that Abbieann ia too was still making all the efforts possible to meet an appalling situation with unbounded sympathy, and generouwity and and also to find means to bridge the remaining floods so that the strongly mobi n mobolized armies aroused into formation by the news of the disaster may h ave means of a passge down into the " war zone"/. The horrors of the disaster made the Abbiea Abbieannian States the leaders in the movements to relieve and succor the hundreds and hundredxs of thousands of hun gry, sick, injured, and homeless surivors of one or two of the worst disasters ever written in fact or in faction, and to care for the sick burned and injuried refugees of the southeastern Calverinia forest fire Plague that so horribly multiplied in un unbelievable numbers which each report from points of refuge.....

Gertrude An geline that afternoon after early retu ning from the ruined city and while the force was preparing for sum supper in the Dinnin g room of the main building sent this by wireless message to Violet- and her sisters,;;;

TO MY FRIENDS THE VIVIAN GIRL PRINCESSES!

"Dear Violet, and her sisters-

"I and my followers are trying to pass through one of the greatest forest fire and flood calamities that has ever fallen upon any country before since history was originates originated.Even from towns further off I recieved telegraphed statements thatbthe forest fire disasters are complete, that three good sized cities esneid especially St Francis and St Gertrudes have ceased to exist, and that many fugitives who did not succeed in escaping have je perished..I am informed that over fifty thousand people have lost their lives, and that one hundreed thousand or more are homeless, and hun gry, sick and injured, that there is urgent need of all kinds of provisions, and that the visit of vessels that can dare brave the floods along its shore courses for the work of supply and rescue is absolutely and imperatively required.

The Government aurthorities of Evangeline Cradcia fourty miles sou thwest of Evangelin e St Claire city, while expressing their thanks for the noble work I have accomplished so far informed us that even your destination and Evangeline St Clare may be threatened by the fire if it races on that direction.They therefore request, that for the purpose d rescueing the people who are in such deadly peril and threatened with starvation, the aurthorities of N.orthern Calverinia may send as soon asposible by means only of Flood transportation if possible means of transporting all refugees to a forestless region uhill the "Red Pkague" recedes.every o ne is anxious to leave the stricken southeastern Calverinia.The city of St Vincent De Paul, and perhaps three others including Tillis in that that region are seriously menanced by the calamity which has taken so appalling a form in southeastern Calverinia.I don't know which is fores is far worst this flood or the fire.I have directed by wireless the main departments of all my remaining sc uts o in general Aronburgs army my Uale, to see that the aurthorities can take such measures for relief of those millions of stricken people as lies within their executive discretion, and I dear Vivian Girls earnestly commend this cas4case of une xampled disaster to the generous consideration ofour main Calverinian Government.For thispurpose I redommend that everything be done as possible.We are checked ane cannot progress forward for days.We are stalled in ST Gertrudes Orphan Asylum two miles southwest of the city of that name.

(SIGN SIGNED)
GERTRUDE AN GELIN E!
P.S ANGELINIA ARONBURG..."."

This foregoing wireless telegraphic message from Gertrude also expressed in the most practical form the sympathy of all of followers for the surviving inhabitants added as refugees to the flood homeless, which she felt sure was without parallel in the "history of the world.She had heard that the official action of the governments of every Abbieannian Province and State had been characterized by the promptlness and liberality that distinguished the Abbieannian people, but that the effort of aid and rescue and so forthwas litorally hindered or frightfully delayed by the nature of especially the dreadful flood which defied transportation ofany kind.Even before Gertrude Angelia had sent the message to Violet, and her sisters from St Gertrudes Orpah Orphan Asylum the people of the nation had raised huge sums of money to aid the suffering.T e nation was excited and even man who had not joined the army had enlisted by many thousands from cities and towns to help in fighting the flood and the forest fires.All the christian people even throughout the world were acting as individuals or communities to be on gaged in the work of raisin g funds and supplies, and from end of the nations to the other the appeals of relief committees met with quick and liberal responsnes.

For quite a time for their own benifit the real extent of the disasters had been kept from the Vivian Girls, but unwittingly all war correspondents, news paper men do and even sight seeing foriegners had told much to them, and they themselves had seen to it that the world knew of it, and therefore now the floods and forest fire disasters and countless other horrors not written in this book likewise struck a sympathic chord in all other countries, and within a few weks or even days from the time the first news of the war horror was recieved, the sufferers who wawsere succored witnessed the grand end enobling scene of the entire civilized world rushing to their relief.One fiery touch of nature caused by the foe had made the whole world kin.

Tward the end of the evening, when the girl and boyscouts were all assembledout in the big yards of the Orphan Asylum, Gertrude Angeline herself gave a lecture of what she might have suspected of the awful forest fires then raging.She proceeded to showhhow the Glandelinian country, or at leaat its leaders had by tricks or foul means established certain forms of how to carry on the dreadful wear, for she believed as she had said according to the nature of the news in the papers that as Glandelinia could not make much progress by winning battles, Glandelinia therefore decided to try to sweep all of her enemy's territory by making great disasters, and by making Nature do horrible work for her, and she dwelth at some length on the awful n and most pitiable condition of the sections of the nation which was so badly torn and swept by these unusual and most dreadful of disasters.Then, turning to the allegorical side of the subject, she declaredthat perhaps there were in the very for e of girl and boyscouts some who were probablyvictims of probably victims of the very Glandelinians, some who may have lost parents,brothers, or sisters and so forth, some who may have lost even everything,, that the disaster was profane, impure, even most unjust, that Glandelinia because of the nature of the forest fire disaster had blackened their so souls with mort mortal sins, and that the enemy ocuntry country was like a soul possessed with an evil spirit.Gertrude Angeline gave a great detail of her suspis pi suspi cion as to what and which may have been the cause of the flood disaster, in spite of what the world may think , and she stated further that if any volcanoes may have ruined Abbieann it could not have done it as bad as this disaster.

So engaging was the style, sp impressive the manner of the speaker, that all listened listened with eagor attention.But so far no one was more interested than Schfoiled Penrod.That young boyscout leader, it must be confessed, had scarcely heard a heard a speec j from any one one of the girl or boyscout leaders or from anyone else during the decade of years that summoned up his life.What great knowledge he had of the wars progress and of its horrible nature had been gleaned from an occassional flash of at e attention to his own guardian s exhortations, and his guardianwas general Waldonia Greatheart.Hence it is therefore not surprising that Mr. Pentd Penrod did not fully take inthe speakers remarks, and also it is not surprising that he confounded some fact wi h witty with fancy, the litoral with the figurative figure figurative.

The instruction over, Penrod remained in the dinnin g hall dinn ing hall, and h e proceeded to make a careful examination of all the code papers he had in his possessioj po possession.At length the gratified expressiop which came upon his face evinced that he had found what he desired.Gravely seating himself, he read and pondered, poj pondered and read.Fin ally seemingly tobbe satisfied with his re-s archos, he c cast asidethe last of ty the codes,cand hurried away to the yards, where he at once sought out his three con fidants, Frank, James and John.

"I say" began Penrod"Take some candy." Candy sawas Pen ods pipe of peace.All accepeted the peace offering, whereuponthe young chief of the whole Girl n and boyscout forve unfolded his ideas, in the following conversat on,;;;;l;

"I say say fellows did you min d what Gertrude said thid evening at instructions before supl sup er!!!!"

"Yes. What about it!" inquired John .

"Why just this,Glandelinia is like a persoj person possed by a devil!."

"What." ex l c exclaimed all in a brea y brea h brea tth breath.

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"That is just what." returned Penrod, in a most decided manner."Didn't she say that the wolworld suspects that Glandelinia is responsible for all that has occured.That all the evidence is again st her, that she is like a n nation possed with a f devil.!W

"That's so." assented James.

"N o boys, I ask you --what n at o'nation in the world would do such as this as Glandelinia does.!"

"N'o one". put in Jim.

"Who is responsible."!

"Glandelinia"put in Jim again.

"Glandelinia" echoed "Frank.

"Just s o" "Added Francis."

"Well now"resumed Pen rod,"I've been looking this up, and I guess we must---w a what is that word Gertrude used!!!!!"

"Investigation." suss suggested John.

"That is just it.We mut must investigate it."

"Make a tour of the disaster region or something of that sort." an d s aid James, imp arting to his voice a tone jalf od su suggestion, and half of inquiry.

Penrod rewarded this remark with a glance which was almo almost severe.

W"James", he said reproachfully." Im vestigation o is something serious and full of adventurecand peril, and o you ought not to twlk that osy.To in vestigate means to try and find out what was the de d cause of the disasters, and that is w at we are goingto do for Violet, and her sisters.Q"

"But it does seem to me"Observed John, the best theologi na theogians of these boyscouts,"We ought to get one of the Gemini members to do it.It's too dangerous a job coffon us boys and girls."

"I've thought of that too." answered Penrod, with an impressivenevo in t with an impressiveness which carried confidenda; "But you see here is the trouble."We fellowclikes to do anything wh without giving the o other away.And if we told anyone before we are really sure about it, we would have to say alo the bad things which we either kn ow or do not know about Glandelinia.Anyhow we can do as Violet, and her sisters suggested to us in several letters, try our hands at the investigation first, and vif our investigtion don't do any good, we then can get the Gemini to do it.Then we'll try on Mr Dargar.WQ "

Strangely enough , these three boys began to look upon Penrods proposition in a serious light.This boyscout hero had a boyish eloquence, which persaudoded qhich wi whither there was proof or not.Had any other boyscout made the same proposal, they would have lau h laughed him into sloon silence, but Penrod was aborn dader.

"Well how are we to go a o about it!" inquired James.

"I'll tele you "answ.ered Penrod."Fasting and prayer might caused Our Blessed Lord to prevent such disasters in the future."

"Fasting!" echoed James.

"Yes we must go without suppor t bto night."

The members of the little badnlookes at each other doubtfully.

"It's got to b done." said Penrod with strict des decision."I read ag out many such things in a prayer book.Also in also in the bible."

"Ad what else!" asked John .

"Then we have got to ask God to help us find the real a cause."

The prospect of these strange dutires was inducing a feeling upon all.

"What willwe say Penrod!" whispered Jim.

"That is just the trouble, it's got to be said in Latin, cause I say in all prayer books a lot of prayers in in Latin which us so frequ ntly used for f Mass, Vespers and so fot forth."

"Whew!" exclaimed James."We can't get over that."

"Yes we can"said tg the ever ready Penrod."There is even in many a prayer book lots of Latin hymns, and there are many of these hymns at the end of my own prayer book, and I have in my earlirst years pratised saying and study ng thrm every day and often at n ight.Then whenbI read them out loud, all you follows need to do is answer"AMEN."

"We can do that easily enough." assented Francis."But what s is all this to some off."!

"That's another thing I've settled"Penod Penrod made answer."But we got to make the plans first and then if it is fixed right sent the sugges ions to Violet, and her sisters.We'll hold the meeting at twelve oclock to night.You needn't look so scared Jack Sanders.I'll keep awake till twelve, and then I'll call you other boys.You see we must pray for success in our meeting, we can do it as easy as not before we go to bed.I'll stand at the head of the bed reading the prayers; and if any one suspicious tries to do come in and interferes you six boys be ready to grab him, so he won't escape.We might have enemies in our midst and we wouldn't g know it.We got to be careful...."

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"Oh Penrod"Suddenly exclaimed the ingenious Francis."How can you make a meeting at twelve oclock without a light, and lights are not even allowed by you or Gert ude after eight bells which is taps for us...!.!"

For the first time during the proseedin s proceedings Penrod was nonplussed;indeed indeed the question of illumination had not occured to him.We could alter the or order for that night but he would not do it.

"Gracious I didn't think of that."Let's all try and get some ex schemes."

"You can dismiss that degree for to night and allow the lights to be on."

"said James.

"No nothing doing.I'll not alter a law for anything."

"But Gertrude won't mind.And you are the superior you know."

"That is not what I'm thinking of"said Penrod seriously."I'll not have No lights on, and those who put on a light will answer in Court Martial."

"Rollo.I'll tell you what." cried Harry Jch as triumphantly, breaking in upon the silence that had ensued."We can get some candle sticks from the quarter master sergeant and hl hold the meeting outside."

Penrod pondered for a moment.

"No"he finally said."No candle lights either."

"But--)"

"We might set something afire?"said Penrod."Nothing doing."

"There's a full moon to night and it'll be bright as the wind is west and cleared away the smoke." said Frank."We can read by Moonlight."

"You are a jewel Frank"exclaimed Penrod, enthusiastically."That'll make it more mystic like still."

"What's the matter with our hoods and regalas!" asked Williams.

"I don't know." mused Penrod."Do you think it will make it more impressive and is it necessary!"

"Of course "rejoined Francis.

"Then we'll get out regalas and hoods, too, and James and I'll leave all th that to you, because you know more where to get our hoods and regals than we do.Get on at recess to night an hour before taps, and a if any one asks you why you are taking them tell them I said you should.But don't bring no candles remember.We might not need no lights at that, as we are not writing anything on papers.Each boy can keep his hood and regala under his pillow.We don't want about this affair to no on one as we don't want to be spied upon, and wel we'll pull it through in fine style."

At supper that evening six little boyscouts took nothing; and before retiring James procured the Regalas and hoods, and bestowed them according to direction.He was asked by the quarter master sergeant what he wanted them for but he did not tell, only saying Penrod wanted them.Angelina Rideas step ped him but getting the satisfactory answer only said;

"A queer time for Penrod to hold a meeting.Why doesn't he want to use a light."

But that James could not tell as he knew not.

As Penrod slipped into bed, he felt confident of success.Indeed he found less difficulty in keeping awake than might be expected.For one reason it was too hot for him to sleep.With his eyes fixed on the ceiling he was thinking of the proceedings.There was one boyscout who did not retire as soon as was expected, and Penrod watched so anxiously to see him make his retirement. But this boy sat up in bed, for such a time that a cold perspiration broke upon Penrod, who feared the boy might stay up that way all night.Finally Penrod arose from his bed and walking over to the lad;

"Say what's the idea.Are you sleeping sitting up or are you out of your head.Lie down and go to sleep."

The boy obeyed but before retiring he knelt beside his bed and kept this position for an interminably lon g time, as it seemed to Penrod.

"Pshaw "growled Penod to himself"This isn't the time to pray.We ought to do that when we turned in when taps sounded, then loudly -

"Hey sonny do you need a pillow to kneel on.You may take mine if you are going to kneel there all night.What's the matter are you homesick and praying for permission to go home."!

At this, the boy grumbling something to himself did go to bed, and there was a wak silence for an hour or so.Then Penrod arose, donned his regalia and hood, and tip toeing from bed to bed, aroused his comrades who were to hold the meeting with him.All dressed in their Regalas, they stole noiselessly out of the dormitory.Presently a solemn procession enters the yard.Penrod him self surpliced over his Regalia, and with prayer book, at the head followed by his ten friends, each bearing a long rod halted in a line.Solemn and silent they formed a circle about him as he directed.

"Don't make a sound"whispered Penrod"Unless it is necessary."And if any one creeps tward us stealthily, grab him and hold him till we see who he is."

"What if he shouts!" asked Joseph.

"He won't shout."said Harryson"I'll see that's he is quiet.I've got a strap to strangle him with. We won't have spies around us."

"Very Well"said Penrod."First come the meeting prayers.How are you all ready?"

"General Assents"

"All right here goes! Then came the "Our Father, Hail Mary, and three other prayers followed or ended by "O Mary Concieved Without sin, Pray for us who have resourse to TH Thee".Then came lastly a Laten prayer.Amen came the solemn res ponses.

Just at that moment they saw some boy approaching the gate.Here Penrod looked up from his book.There was a genral silence.

"Hide behind those trees every one." said Penrod.

They obeyed.The boy coming in the gate, did not appear to be suspicious in the least.One of the boys moved uneasily being impatient.

"Don't go on yet.Wait till he's near enough." observed [illegible] gravely.

"Oh "cried Joseph,"Maybe its a Glendelinan boy.Yet coming in.Do you think he'll cry out and brig his friends if we seize him."

"Not if we are quick enough." said Penrod, though he paled a little."Come now he's close enough.Grab him as he comes."

As the boy came nearer he suddenly found himself in the clutches of twelve black robed hooded figures, and his terror knew no bounds.

"What's the matter!" he gasped."Am I in the hands of devils?"

"No, but you will be "answered Penrod"if you don't be still.Keep quiet you goose till we bring you into the home."

The boys terror, now that he began to appreciate the situation, fast gave way to rage.He was a strong lad, and he made violent struggles to escape from the grasp of his captors.But his efforts seemed to be unavailing and they managed to bring him up as far as the dormitory.Quick as though, Penrod o switched on the lights, and then as the struggle raged near a bed it gave with a great crash.Quick as thought Penrod hurled him upon the wreck, and uncovered the prisoner.

"Well I swan S Jack Sanders.""cried one of the boys.

"And we mistook him for a spy." said James.

"What were you doing out at this late hour of night?" demanded Penrod.

.The boy however did not immediately answer.Then Gertrude Angeline who in the other quarters had heard the commotion came to the scene of action in her night robe, finding Jack standing beside the dismantled bed looking the embodiment of guilt, and surrounded by the boys who had unhooded themselves. The others too have been awakened by the commotion, and the turning on of the lights and were looking aghast.

"I say what were YOU doing out at this hour of night!" demanded Penrod.

"I was out viewing the fire and forgot what time it was."

"Pretty good excuse." sneered Gertrude."You are a queer one.Careless with the paddle, jam up our raft several times, souse us and so forth.Now you usurp our own orders and come in at Twelve oclock.Good thing Penrod caught you. Too bad Penrod your plans was spoiled."

"This happens to be your bed Mr Jack Sanders" continued Penrod.Take that vacant bed over there, and we'll settle this matter in the morning."

"But sir." remonstrated the boy----"But sir---)))))"

"That'll do now, your foolishness spoiled my meeting, go to BED.You'll come before me to morrow and explain your late coming in."

He turned to Gertrude imploringly but she wouldn't intercede.

"Late comers get court marshalled somethings"she said.

And Penrod glancing about the dormitory took down the names of other absentees, and then advising his comrades to retire put out the light.

In the meantime Viocet Violet an d her sisters had recieved many messages of condolences and the like, and also announcements of contributions from the rulers of other countries.But Gertrude Angeline had sent the best by wireless telegraph) asking her to accept the profound sympathy of all her followers in this most appalling calamity which had so suddenly come upon such large sections of the States of Calvarinia.Of course the Vivian Girls and even the aurthorities of the nation were very thankful for the expressions of prof ound sympathy, that the other other nations have sent on the occassion of the awful occassion of disaster ;and though the n ations stated that they were profoundly moved by such terrible news that finally reached them and which has cost the lives of unestimated numbers of persons, their haste to offer profound sympathy did not how-ever alter the situation any.Every christian n ation had sent letters of deep sympathy and with remittances of offerings for the war victims. Gertrude her self recieved this note from Violet and her sisters by the hour of morning! August 2th-

"Am deeply touched by the mark of sympathy which in this most terrible misfortune has fallen on our country which the kind kin gs of Nations nations have deigned to convey to us.Though I do accept or ask them to accept my warm gratitude and thanks, and also the gratitude of the victims they propose to succor, it nevertheless does not change the situation any and we know the awful disaster contin ues on in its ravages.Every nation is a sharing

with us a lively sympathy and feeling of grief at the catastrophe that our country has suffered, and have in advised us to have it investigated to find out the true cause. They stated that their own fatye father and mother the n Emperor and the Emperor and and the Empress summoned the governor of Calverinia and othe other afflicted states, and expressed to them their own sorrow bec because of the awful disaster.Emperor Vivian requested that he be kept continually informed regarding the details and the r progress of the disasters. During all the time she had had the chance to do so Gertrude Angeline during the halts of the trip down the flood had spent many an hour late at night to write many account accounts of what she and her followers had observed during the ravages of the flood.She declared that even the hundreds of thousands of frightened people of the neighboring towns and villiages and other provinces whether in the path of the conflagrations or not were the first to give practical relief as far as they were able.One of the reports a long detail from Gertrude Angeline came during the early morning of August 2th just two hours before breakfast call and it ran as follows;

"Dear Violet, and her sisters;

"We are still stranded by fire and water and some days will pass before we can reach you.The unusual concentrating numb r numbers of the refugees even to my way of fearing threaten a calamity as direful and as dreadful as the horrors of the explosions floods and forest fires, forunless should the r refugees of either disaster be quickly provided with food, and provisions and given shelter from the elements they would surely perish.A cocorrespondent who was at Angelinia Agathia three weeks ago and just came to me told me that the enemy even let loose a flood to rout genral general Vivinians army.The condition of the people of the fire horrors are as follows according as far as I have witnessed!..:

They have as correspondents reported to me reached towns some distance beyond the fires and the floods on the very verge of star n starvation and most of them are bad,y badly burned. From what I have heard and read of the whole of Calverinia and her sisters states and provinces are a country of mourning.I have saved a or rather saved every news paper I could secure and buy and found by the numbers that there is hardly a family in the whole country that has not one or more members in any of these dreadful catastrophes.The news states in every paper that the distraught crowds block the streets of every city and town that has not suffered from the visit tions.Hundreds of thousands are contin ually given shelter in cathede cathedrals, and other big houses of cities; and every public place is filled with them.And yet the enemy menance these towns.And accordingly to the reports, the sight of men crying bitterly as a walk and of women collasping in hysteries on the streets is so common that the whole nation is aroused.Spasms of weeping sweep over the throngs untill every member of the dense crowds seems to be in tears.

Famine doubles the misery.The neighborin g towns far distant from the floods as fores fires forest fires are doing all they can, and ships that dare the chances of the ravaging floods are rendering what aid they can, but the enemy tries to hinder, and the food question and also that of puvisions are desprate so enormous are the masses of refugees that must be cared for.It seems as if a Martinquis Horror has occured in every community.Non e of thosewho have crowded into San Pedro La Jude has any idea of returing to the scene of the devastations.It is more than doubtful if the flood swept towns and those ruined by these fies will ever again figure on anyof our maps.They are no lon gar cities and towns, they are hardly a ruins, and they are not ever likely to be re builded again.Certainly no body who in in who is in the "red plague district" will ever forget afterwitnessing the scenes that are all about us. We ourselves dear Princesses have chanced risks and difficulties in our trip. We have heard that boatloads of provision provisions from other towns and cities within easy res reach of the disaster regions on the way were seized by the the enemy foragers and consumed or destroyed almost as quickly as they were unloaded.Dear Prin cesses if you only knew what a horrible enemy we are fighting.Preventing the provisions from reaching the unfortunate refugees.A cowardly way of fighting the war. The terrors of famine and disease confront the homeless victims.The Government must do something to prevent the enemy from seizeing the provisions.I know the great government of Abyssinkile by now have brought its matchless resources into play but nevertheless have to look out for the enemy.The Ocean going Tug St Ann, which was at Peden, and the big ship Starring, also in the river Harbor of St Bernard which had been speeding tward the Evangeline St Claire route loaded with stores for the refugees had been seized by the enemy near Junction Road and destroyed.By order of the Governer of Abyssinkile the various members of the Commi ttee that state were were instructed to co-operate in the employment of the revenue cutters, and other craft armed to go out and combat these vandals who seize food and provisions sent to refugees and to give no quarter.The War Department dear Princesses with its well organised supply departments were regarded by now as in beter position than any other instutution to take chargeof the relief measures except that it has no means of

transportation, and what boats it has it fears to sent out because of the enemy trying to frustration aid coming to the refugees.Who ever heard of such a thing before.I see by the papers that fortunately the Navy had a handy ship in the "Propeller, which had recently arived at Gertrude Angeline City, from a scoutin g cruise.Having been a merchant freighter bfore transformed ito a battleship she was admirably adapted to the service required of Her.The Secretary of the Navy (I can't remember his name) immediately telegraphed orders to Captian Tenuer , Her commander to ship all kinds of supplies to be offered him, and to sail at the earliest possible moment for the stricken district.He was under orders to extend relief as far as possible, and to fight his way through if he found any n ecessity for so doing.That ship I hear is on the way now.Well dear friends I'll close the message now, and let you know further in other details.
Your loving friend Gertrude."

In the meantime this ship had been fitted under way.The adjutant general, quarter master general, commissary general, and surgeon general, were charged by the Emperor with the arrangement of that part of the relief measures pertaining to the Nations intention.Alsoofficial orders were dictated for the guidance of the three or four supply departments giving the scheme of distribution as follows:

"Two hundred and fourteen medical officers, with I $20I000I000 worth of medical stores,etc, one subsistence officer with $70I000I000 in stores, consisting of all food stuffs ever listed including rice, dried fish, sugar coffee, tea and canned soups, condensed cream, salt pepper, and vinegar one officer of the quarter master departmentt with $200I000I000 worth of clothing supplies for men women and children.Including these so far were twenty four priests, and ninety Sisters of charity, ten Calimite Nuns and fourteen Sisters of Mercy. The orders directed that all these be sent on the Prppeller Propeller.The character of the Emperors instructions to the depaim departments concerned in this relief work may be gathered from the orders that the caption should go to the furthest limits of executive discretion for the rescue and relief of the afflicted districts which they alone could succor.Emperor Vivian was so eager to set the work of relief in motion that he showed his heats indeed.He had orders cuttin g red tap into shreds already, for the army and navy departments to utilize all the supplies they had on han d with the utmost speed for the relief committees on the relief expedition, when Count De Riff found it out.

"But your Majesty"said the Count"You should not sed the ship by mean of the flood waters.It might become involved in serious difficulties either with the flood or the foe if you do."

"There is no other way and those people will die of starvation if we lose a minute." was the charaoteral characteristic answer."I don't alter anything." ad and he went on instructing the Secretaries to go on making plans as to have everyti everything in readiness for action.Meanwhile generous committies all over the land were pouring money and supplies into the hands of the aur authorised committees, for shipment to the stricken regions.Two hundred and fifty nurses were furnished, and ten thousand barrels of flour for the stricken territories.Many concerns sent telegrams asking how they could help, and flour millers shipped large consignments of flour to the flood and fire sufferers.

This action in line with the long established custom of the millers in cases of public calamities.Elsewhere the shipping yards of all river towns chances chonced the dangers of the flood in the undertaking to transport to the homeless people of the fire region a large quanity of fire fighters, and building lumbers, which the Dondobian Government donated.The m lumber came by rail hundreds of millions ofplanks, and it came through without payment of duty.

Finally on July the 12th, amid the tootin g of whistles, from every craft in the harbor of ' partly flooded Gertrude Angeline, this ship the Propeller first of the cargo carrying relief ships loaded to the gunwale with food and clothing forthe famine stricken sufferers of the horror zone sailed from the docks on her errand of mercy at eight oclock at night.It had been planed planned for the ship to leave early in the morning but trucks laden with all kinds of stores kept comin g in untill the fender bars were drawn in .From six in the morning untill within two minutes of the time the Propeller sailed, a force of two thousand five hundred laborerers were kept busy loading the ship.They had relieved a shift of equal number which stopped work at seven oclock the night before.The cargo of the Propellerwas estimated at thousands of tons sufficient to feed the people as far as they could be reached for at least twenty days.The bulk of the cargo was purchasedput of the appropriation of $2000,000,000 made the the nation for the relief of as far as it would reach of the sufferers, but there were also contributions from other sources.Most of this was spent for womens and childrens clothin g and for tents.Those of the subsistance department expended one million dollars given to their departments for food supplies.About fifteen million dollars worth of medicines from the medical department also was taken . .In addition to the officers and of crew

Numbering in all two thousand two hundred and sixty nine men, the officers of the army, Gemini, nun s, priests and members of the hospital corps, the Propeller, carried a distinguished party of scientific men who were going out to invest invi investigate the cause of the flood.There were fourty of them. Then by four war correspondents and thirty news pper men representing various papers in Gertrude Angeline, and other various cities were also of the party, besides two thousand mari mariner, and mar h machine gun crews.By the time Gertrude was n otfying Violet and her sisters of the ship that morning, it was when nearing her own landing place but some distance out, attacked by Glanda linian gunners hidden out on some shore nearest the home, but Gertrude wisely thought of aplan to stop it, and her plan worked, and she had the Glandelin ian cannon in her possession before long, and the Glandelinian gunn ers anihilated annihilated.Another ship had sailed for Turpo town on July the 3Ith with stores of provisions, clothing and medical stores for the survivors of the volca flood and forest fire horror.But this ship was never h eard from and it was feared the enemy might have capered it.The shock of the horror as on fully learned seemed to have awakened the Abbiennnian Government t to the extent of the disasters in middle and southeastern Univerinia and throughout Rongall State. However this manifestation of horror tended to draw tighter the already close ties uniting the states states of Abbionnia.Of all friendly manifest ations the most brilliant the most touching and the most profoundwere between the Mother and affliated Countries of Abbiennnia. The manificent appro priation of the Abbiennnian aurthorities for the relief of the sufferers in the horror, Emperor Viviens message recommending a raising of funds, and the action of the aurthorities in dispatching strong vessels and food supplies to the stricken were drawn attention to in the State of Con centinia.The Governer of that State was asked his opinion as to what he thought of the enemy trying to frustrate the provisions reaching the sufferers.The Governers reply was not calculated to satisfy public opinion.He said the matter had been under consideration f of the Cabin et, but being puzzled he had no statement to make.The governer had never heard of such a thing ever being suggested before and he could not even thin, he was so flabbergasted.He was struck dumb. Of course everybody felt the extraordinary gravity of the situation, and the tremendous calamity or suffering caused by the appelling calamities.Every assistance that could be given by the Government would be given.The Governer was then asked whether in view of the unpall unparalleled character of the disaster the enemy would be enabled as far as possible to frustrate provisions reaching the [illegible]
reaching the suffering victims. The Governm Governer replied that the govern ment of the state had the matter under consideration.He was not prepared at the present time to make an announcement on the subject, for he was astounded at the bare idea of the enemy frustrating the provisions from reaching the flood and fire victims.The situation was a singular one.The Government was anxious to show sympathy in a practical way.The House of Common s of Concentinia was anxious to do what was possible, yet news of the ships n ot being heard from brought on an awful situation.The state did not attempt to conceal its sad humiliating humiliation over the enemy frustrating the relief sent.The whole situation was looked upon as humilating.He was angry.

He said that Glandelinia was a devil let loose with his legions and ought to be floored.B t But also he said the provision ships must be guarded, and that the relief work must move forward with promptness and efficiency, and must be strongly defended against attack, that the relief must be successful, and that food and provisions must reache the refugees.

After looking through her little Dairy, of which she had written down the accounts of her experience during the trip, she observed that the first few weeks of the adventure like the course of true love in fable and hi t history, had not, and did not run smooth. Her troubles, some of which we have already narrated, were not confined to the adventure on the flood or the delays caused by the forest fires alone. They followed her ino the Regiments. Gertrude was getting disgusted.She had thought like many other girlscout leaders, that she would have an easier ti e after she had succeeded in reaching Angeline Richess Scouts and in being able to progress forward back to Emperor Viviens army.But she found it was just as easy as a two year old baby trying to study russian. She had desired once to secure ships, but on this point fearing that would be more dangerous than the trip on the raft, Penrod, and evenher girlscout friends did not agree with her. It must be confessed too, that Gertrude herself was at times over d-s discouraged and sometimes felt like giving up the attempt and stay in the Orphan Asylum un untill the fire was passed even if it took a year.What made it worse, she had bo s boys in the command who were either ignorant or careless, or not as brave as they ought to be,and careless Jack was at times overbold in his manner of deporting himself in the class room room of the home.

One one occassion on the early morning of August the 5th Gertrude put herself to much trouble to explain a long an and complicatted plan as to how and discover the course and extent of the flood so she could find some definte way of getting through without so much difficulty.She went over the problem step by

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stop in such wise that n o one not absolutely feather brained could fail of foll lowing the process.Gertrude Angeline was the soul of earnestness in trying to make it out, and so at the end of half an hours explanation to her class, she was covered with chalk, while beads of perspiration---it was ly no means however a cool day-----stood out upon her brow.

"N ow girls and boys"Gertrude said turning upon her followers"Do you under stand it all?what shall w e do to make progress?"The head of each boy and girlscout nodded assent.Suddenly a hand went up. It was Jack Sanders.

"Well Mr Sanders."!

"Yes sir." said Jack soberly.

"Yes sir!What do I look like?A man!"

"I mean said Miss Gertrude."

There was some tittering from the others.Gertrude was puzzled.

"What do you mean Jack Sanders?"

"I understand what the flood is going to do Miss Gertrude."

Gertrude stuffed her handkerchief into her mouth to keep from bursting out laughing, there was a loud guffa mong among the more thoughtless boys, and yet somehow or other Jack felt that he was out of order, that he had not paid any attention to her requests, and he was sensible in a dim way that Gertrude hard supressed smile carried a mischievious joke with it.But the words had been spoken,and were beyond recall. A moment or two later Francis Sanilis was called upon for some explanation of how he believed the flood could be traveled more easier.

"What is the nature of the land, Francis!" asked Gertrude in a kindly manner.

Francis arose, but gave several gasps.He did not know a thing.Gertrude with a v few encouraging words repeated the question.

"It's a con--continent." gasped Francis.

"What's a continent!" asked Gertrude puzzled.

"What you asked me!"

"I'm afraid you didn't catch my question." said Gertrude."How don't be so nervious.You arnone quivering bundle of nerves, stand straight done have your knees bending bending under you like that.I'm sure you know it.Listen what is the nature of the land beyond the flood?It is rocky, or mountenous ,sandy or what.Will we escape fire or run into it."!

Poor Francis gasped again, but gave no answer.Here crasy Jack who knew nothing of what the question was or of his geography came bravely to the rescue. He was seated just behind Fransis Francis.

"It's a burning stretch of mountainous country." he whispered.

"The mountains are all afire there." Francis ytammered.

"Is that so.Well what else" said Gertrude as if expecting more.

"Go on"growled Jack, and tell her it is rocky, and there volcanoes of water."

"It is." repeated Francis.

"It is what"Asked Gertrude.

"It's full of rocks and there are volcanoes of water an and smoke."

But even this answer did not seem to satisfy Gertrude.She began to look nervois while Jennie turner looked dumbfounded.

"Tell her its the flood." continued the prompter.

"It's all flood."

But Gertrude, for some unknown reason, failed to come to the rescue of the hapless third boy. She still impatiently waited.

"Hang it all"growled Jack, unwittingly speaking so loud as to be heard by Gertrude and every one in the yard,"Tell her all the mountains there are on fire very rocky, and that there is very much water."

"The mountains are burning down, the flood is on fire, the fire is very mountainous and very hot." blurted forth the poor confused boy, and as a burst of laughter saluted his funny remark he sank back into his seat miserably con scious that he had cut a very ridiculous fire.

"Say Mr sanders when I ask you for information you can give it." rare retorted Gertrude.Up to your silly trick again oh.Why don't you tale us all that the water is on fire too.You stay after class, and I'll hold a o consultation with you you dumbell."

"I didn't do anything"exclaimed Jack with virtuous in dignation. But Ger trude very wisely ignored this disclaimer, and continued the instruction.

Gertrude was usually somewhat suspicious of Jack Sanders.She always knew that naturally though Jack came gradually to imbide a disgust for his work and to belong to this band of boy and girlscouts, for since she had observed him she had noticed his actions had ended in an almost entire neglect of his military boy scout studies.Jack always felt in his heart that he was acting wrong, but he was a thoughtless reckless boy, and his sense of responsibilities was only poorly developed.He was of foreign birth, and did not ugerstand the Abbissinnian girlscouts and their naturesand ways.Yet he always realized with growing unhappiness, that should he continue in his present course, he would be soon packing up and going home against his will, and therefore he had always tried to change but found it very difficult. Bothertrude both Gertrude and

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Penrod indeed had no trouble in guessing the state of Jacks mind. but they had resolved to wait untill some favorable opportunity should present itself for turn ing the boyscout from his foolish ill chosen path.The opportunity soon came as Jack despite his silliness and carelessness was as brave as any boy can be.An incident later that morning brought it about.It was a gloomy morning and it was sultry, not of the weather which is hot for August but because of the fires.Jack was straggling along moodily from the refectory toard the yard, when he perceived a little beyond the bone on the flood waters a long sailing craft on the flood provided with provisions with refug refuggees and it was being attacked by the Glandelinian foragers in boats.Quickly picking up his cartridge belt which he had dropped in his excitement he hurried to his yard and sought Harry Andersonids.

Jack had been rather out of spirits this hotmorning---he was totally unprepared in his military lessons, and he had looked forward with unpleasant feelin gs to the days work.But this neight he had been wholly unprepared for.

"Why the dirty skunks"he said to himself."I'll fix them."

He found Harry without difficulty, and drew him aside.

"Look here Harry"And Jack produced his glasses."What do you say to taking a peak in the direction of the flood.

He accepted the invitation.

"Hallos,what's up now!" Harry exclaimed."Glandelinians attacking a provision ship coming to aid the refugees.But it seems impo-sible to prevent them.They got the ship in their possession."

"Yes but we can lay a trap for them." pleaded Jack.

Harry placed his hand affectionately on Jacks shoulder, and with his honest face and eyes beaming earnestness said;

"Jack old fellow, I'm afraid Glandelin is is going wrong too far--but we must do something you know.Of course there nothing bad about attacking them in the boat---but----but--well I ain't no philosopher, but we got to do something any how. We'll inform Miss Richee."

This speech was incho incoherent enough.Harry had endeavored to tell the truth and at the same time think of something better.But honest words are more than grammar, and he tried to think of something to capture the whole bunch, and after they are captured well---

Jack added in extamation;

"You see Harry, we've got to do something or they'll get away with all the provisions.Oh God.Think of the poor starving refugees.Come on, ayou won't let them get away with it."

"Nixie "responded Harry, shaking his head and grinn ing"And I'll tell you what Jackthey won't get in t on this raid on the ol y.It doesn't pay.They are doing it under our nord noses and we'll prove our noses are sensative."

Seeing Harrys determination to do something well, Jack respected it, and they forwith sought Angeline Richee, but came upon Dolores Mic-Hollester and Jean riding together.

"You are just the girls I want to see!" exclaimed Jack enthusiastically.

"And for why!" asked Jean.

"See that ship over there?"

"Yes." answered Jeanand Dolores together."The men are at work unloading."

"You are greatly mistaken"said Harry."Those are Glandelinians stealing the stuff."

The girls forwith took out their spyglasses and looked. Then they whitened like marble.

"You boys come on fire." gasped Dolores."You see that old church building.Come on over to that corner between the walls of the hand ball ally alley.It's a safe place now.We can plan something quick;

"Now"resumed Dolores, a few seconds latter, unless you want to be seen don't so too much of yourselves boys.We can watch what is going on from here and then I plan. It's a great trick, I found it out myself."

Jack gave audible approbation o to this advice, and proceeded d to carry it out to the latter, and for some minuten the four looked on in silence.

"Isn't it awful!" Harry at length inquired.

"Isn't it though!" answered Jack, repressing a cough.

"Say"resumed Dolores-"can you Harry make for the Home without attracting too much attention."

"Oh that's nothing" responded Harry, and he executed the required feati

"You can't make signals"persued Jean to Jack.

"Of course I can, but I don't care much about it.They might see me on shore and get wise."

"Well I'll tell you what you can do, you can go over yonder and watch them more closely."

In answer answer to this, Jack crawlsed forward keeping himself hidden behind brush and shrubbery as Dolores said-

"See that's the way to do the thing."

"Gracious they are dumping some big boxes into the water."

The two girls were now absorbed, Dolores glasses in hand, intently intently eyeing the dastardly raid, and Jean also spyglass in hand deter mined to see also/ what she could find.Just at this most interesting juncture, Dolores quick

ear caught the sound of approaching horses ...
"Look out they might be Glandelinians." Dolores whispered, and as so she spoke she hid behind a tree.But Jean was not so quick, but fortunately it was not Glandelinians, but the terror of Glandelinians just turning the corner accompanied by Pehrod, Jennie Turmer, and some others.This was indeed a meeting that was ardently desired.Dolores still had her spy glasses in her had hand, and she was not without resource, she and her compan oj companion were nestled together. Jean with her eyes full upon Gertrude, was inwardly congratulating herself upon the lucky chance of Gertrudes coming.Dolores who was not in a happy frame of mind was also delighted.
"Good morning girls." the girlscout general began.
"Good morning Miss Aronburg." answered Dolores, who aware of the predicament of the provision boat was resolved to do to do the talking for both.
"There's a strange place for you two girls to be lying in that position."
continued the girlscout general with a peculiar smile.
"Yes Miss Aronburg there is." returned Dolores gravely."Do you see that boat over there.I wonder what those skunks are doing up there."
"I hardly think they are skunks.But what's the matter with you Dolores ? Are you ill?"
The question was pertinent.Dolores was now in a state of excitement, her eyes were almost bulging out of her head as she beheld the goig going ons on the boat, her mouth was closed tight and she was determined to do something.It is superfluous to add, than that Jean or Dolores rather for that moment returned no answer.Jean made an attempt to point teard the boat saying;
"But Gertrude, if those ain't Glandelinias Glandelinians what is that crowd crowd of men up to.Looks as if there is going to be something wrong then."
"Jean you must tell what you are suspicious of.".And Gertrude, regardless of Dolores remark, fixed her penetrating eyes on the boat. A moment of painful silence followed, one moment and then Gertrude looking through her glasses said;
"Dear me, they do in deed appear to be Glandelin ians all right."
"I guess you are right," put in Jennie Turmer."Anyhow Ihope we can frustrate them.Let's go come all of you.Then there was somewhere a strange sound and with a shriek of pain Jack suddenly jumped to his feet and clapped both hands to his bosom---smoke it was streaming from the side of his coat.He had lain on a piece of smouldering wood and did not know it.More of his carelessness.
"It lookssm as if your carelessness continues." remarked Dolores."Now you are on fire outside."
With some rubbing and slapping---accompanied by a round of hopping and wriggling-Jack saved his coat from utter destruction. Later on however the plans of Gertrude worked out, the Glandelinians were suddenly frustrated in their attempt as they came ashore by Gertrudes cavarly escort, and those who did not escape were all shot down and the booty restored to the ship.
During the noon hour or an hour before dinn er, Jack and several other boyscouts were summoned to the room of Gertrude Angeline.
"Well Jack"began Gertrude "QAngeline R e Riches wishes to see you and you other boys in yonder room."
The boys forwith were us hered in."
"Well boys"said that Misses when the boys had presented themselves"How are you getting on .???"
Jack became lost in the contemplation of his feet, but the others stood rigid anddid not wince.
"Take a seat you boys" continued An geline Riches, indicating a number of chairs."I want to have a talk with you.N ow Jack" she resumed when Jack and the others had seated themselves,"I have had a good chance to watch you especially in class, during your paddling, and your scouting work, and your other doings; for all the time since I was here with you and the others, since leaving Myletzes army, and I have come to the conclusion that o you are a very stubborn boy in your work and missions.Isn't that so?"
"Yes Miss Riches." said Jack mildly.
"You don't seem to mind anything what the en emy do.Day after day its the same old story, bad actions at night, dangerous forarys. And many other things.Outside of your strange careless ways your manner shows that you have little or no intention of changing.You caused us to frustrate the enemys raid on a ship this mornig morning.Do you deny that."?
"No Miss Riches." answered Jack beginning to feel very strange, and very exalted.
"If you could cure yourself of your slight careless ways you'd be a great boy. eDon't you know that.?"
"Yes Miss Riches.I'll try to stop being careless."
"Good.And don't you know that a stubborn disposition when for a good purpose is a good thing for a little boyscout, and if you try to do better you may be a general some day."?
"Yes Miss Riches."
"And don't you think we'll reach the armies at Evangeline St Claire by water in a very few days."?
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"Yes Miss Riches."
"Well I don'T"said Angeline Riches.
"You don't"." exclaimed Jack in surprise.
"Not entirely.Generals Consentinian Aronburg, Gladerlinin, and the Vivianmmas are in a sense stubborn men.In deed I think all our truly great men have a fair sare. of stubborness in their composition, and yet the foe and these disasters and ther complications have them all flabbergasted.I bet it'll be near the middle of August efore I or any one succedd succeeds in getting there."
Jacks face betrayed no less astonishment than intere st.
"Empror Vivian." continued Angeline Riches,"By stubbornly clinging to one idea in spite of these disasters, stunning blows, and so many disappointments, discovered a way that in the future he b lieves can frustrate the enemys further purpose of making these disasters.His brother Emperor Hannon in the face of the most dreasful and disheartening difficulties-----difficulties from friends and foes, from these disasters, and so forth-----is still holding to his purpose, has better armies, and creates a good name for the Nations cause.If Emperor Vivian had not been stubborn he would have given in at the news of the first disaster,and Calverinin would have been devasted ten times worse than it is now, if his brother had een less stubborn, perhapsour country might have never achieved her success as she really is i on the winning side despite how things look to those who are diszouraged. Did you ever hear much of Gertrude Angelines Unle? Uncle Consentinian Arronburg who is nicknamed Whillisburger Zimmermann."????
"I have not heard anything of him Miss Riches."
"Well he isjust such another man---stubborn for the cause as he could be.When he was a young officer nothing would satisfy him but to become a great general so he studied evry year after year, till he became one of the learned officers of his day.Then when the Emperor Vivian fourteen years ago raised him to - high rank, and then as this was is on he became just as stubborn in helping our cause to win as he had efore been stubborn in his learnings.Noth n Nothing now could divert him from his new work.Laborous campaigns, difficulties, fierce battles, great losses, hunger, loss of home, wife and friends slain by the enemy--all were bravely endured to this end, he has only Gertrude his neice and hr sister now, and yet despite it all Consentinian Arronburg became the greatest general of all times.."
"Well it seems to me; Miss Richee that if stubborness would be such a good thing, why ain't they able to move forward d spite the fire and flood.It seems to make the very elemnts act wrong."
"Oh it may." answered Angeline Riches, with a smile"Isn't bread a good thing???"
"Yes Miss Riches."
"But you know it would not be good if anyone were topave the streets with it. Stubborness is very good too, but only when used the right way. Sttur stubborness is merely the sign of a strong will----astrong determination.If you expect your sttub stubborn stringth of will to doing what is good, you are all the better and nobler for your sttu stubborn as stubborness.But if anyone exerts it for a bad purpose, then they are so much the worse.What what a pity if any of our generals wouldmisuse such a good gift of God. Why my dear boy, I haveknown not a few Glandelinian generals who bent all their energies of trying towarst the good christian generals, and yet could not do so.And you too Jack have always guarded against misapplying this energy, this determination, this perseverance this stt stubborness---you see it has many names---to good purposes. It's a gift to you from God Himself and you have shown your gratitude by using it right.Do you remember when the Glandelinians attacked you when Jean was wounded, how stead fastly you resisting them till she was rescued, and you then even repulsed them with severe loss...?"
"I guess I do."
"You were determined not to give in till they were licked.You have taken your lessons the same way.You have never let trouble, weariness, memory work scare you either, and you havejust held tight to your lessons.You have never gave in or yeilded to them, you have made them yeild to you.Then you have seen that your sttuborn stuborness has been a gift to God.Now if you use that same sttuborness against your carelessness, Jack you'll make yourself entirely the greatest boyscout we have, in fact you have done that already.By the way you make your Daily Holy Communion don't you?"
"Yes, and I'm always anxious to make it.I'm going on eleven Miss Richee---here the bes lips quivered,and he caught his breath- -and ---and---and well when ever think of Holy Communion---I--oh----think of my mamma, sir and also my pappa Miss Riches.They were murdered by Glandelinian agents when I was sevens But I remember how they were always speaking to me about making my daily Holy Communion, and I have always done so."
While speaking these words, Jack repeatedly shifted from one foot to the other.This indeed was his expression of strong em otion.And he had reason to be affected.For as he spoke, the sweet pure face of hismurdered mother came back vividly to his memory,and while her dark tender eyes kindled into love, herlips

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moved in a last prayer for the weeping child whom she strained in a dying clamp to her bosom, as he promised to fight in the war for horloss, moved in a prayer that Mary the Virgin Mother might guide the ways of her darling boy and guard him through his perilous adventures if he really did keep his promise.Then the strain relaxed, the sweet eyes closed, a shadow seemd to pass of over the pallid face and as he covered the still features with kisses, he knew that his woman was with God.Poor motherless and fatherless boy. Angeline Richee was touched. From Jacks halting words,and shifting of position, she had caught some glimpse of the little lads heart, and knew why he was in the army as a boyscout.

"In retrospect"said she quite gently---"A boy is a great loser if his mamma dies before he grows up.The reason often is that he forgets.But you do not forget Jack."

"I can't "said Jack."But I've wanted to revenge her death a heap more than I ought to."

"Well Jack I have great confidence in you, and so have Penrod, Gertrude, Jennie Turner and many others.Despi te the accidents you may have caused at your beginning it is really through you that we progressed so far.You are a good fighter and Mildred Maxwell proved it to me."

Angeline Richee said these words in a tone so impressive, so earnest, that Jack feltmore andmore humbled.

"I have'nt done anything to deserve it Miss Richee."

"But you did do much to deserve it, or I am sadly mistaken in you.Now I'm going to tell you a secret Jack; but mind you keep it to yourself.Three weeks ago I recieved a letter from the Vivian Girl Pen Princesses in which they asked me to give them a report of you."

Jack loo e looked surprised and embrassed.

"They said that you had given much trouble to the enemy when you was there in their command, and that you seemed very unu nusually notice ayou for your age, and that they doubted strongly if you progressed more as you were doing you would soon make it very profitable forour n cause."

Jack caught his breath.

"And they added,unless I could assure them that you were still giving perfect satisfaction, they would become disappointed in you.But you haven have not changed.I've answered their latter half an hour ago.Listen to what I have sent them by wireless telegraph.Or read it.This is it."

The boy read:

"Dear Vivian Girl Princesses;

In regard to the conduct of Jack Sendera it is too early in my knowledge to say anything that might be exaggerating.But from the data already afforded me by what I have seen of him,and heard of him, I feel quite certain that he has developed into a the thoroughly good and available boyscout, and is one of the best, and to make him better so he can use him as his Confederate, Penrod is going to have him brought to "Radcliffe who will train him for the occassion and make him the best secut known.

Yours sincerely;

Angelinia Ann Richee."

Jacks lips quivered,and a softness came into his dark eyes, he made no attempt to sneak speak.Thelittle fine noble head bowed low.He could have fallen at Angelines feet.

"Now Jack, I'm quite sure I have not been deceived in you.Look what you did this mir morning.You saved that provision ship, and caused the destruction of the vandals who raided it.Perhaps for your little acts of carelessness we were overharsh with you at first-)))"

"No you were not.Hang it." blurted forth Jack"If you or the others had kinoked me once or twice, I'd feel better now."

Angeline Richee held out her hand, Jack caught it in a fervent grasp.

"Noq Now my boy, we will forget the pass past.Tall talk & walk in the yard or something for a while, and think over what I have said.Then make your resolutions carefully, and ask the blessing of the Secret Heart."

Jack departed, carrying a new range of ideas in his little brain, up and down the yard he paced buried in thought.The seed had fallen on good ground.Finally going to the chapel he knelt for a long time before the tabernacle and prayed with all the earnestness of his little soul, that he might be cured of his unwonted carelessness.Nor was his prayer unheard, from that hour Jack bean no entirely careful, and never caused a future accident.But always where one boy changes there's another to take his place and that was "Walk over somebodys elses foot Green" He got cured more roughter as we'll see bye and bye.It was twelve of the noon, when Harry Andersonia was aroused from his day lour slumber by a hand which was shaking him in no gentle a manner.On opening his eyes he discerned by the dim light of the sun trying to pierce the smoke clouds Jack Sanders.

"What's the matter Jack."

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"I say Harry isn't Angeline Richee a great girl!"

"Oh go and do your work." growled H arry turning over and burying his face in his arms."Please let me sleep.You know I've been up all night."

Jack complied with this sensible advice, and stood by a tree for full five minutes building golden visons of what he could do in the future to better himself.At that moment "Foot stepper" came passing by.

"Say"blurted H Jack grabbing him by the collar"What do you want to do cripple me!"

"What's the matter!"

"Matter nothing.You stepped on at least ten of my toes. Do it again and I'll man handle you.You armoore careless than I was.Go ahead now and see if you can step on the toes of a tree." and with this he let him go,and he was glad to escape this strong lad.Ah yet if Jack only knew what difficulties and perils were to confront him,andunder what tragic circumstances he was to continue his work the reader may have been quite sure that he would have [illegible]

"Whitc[illegible]

that following night.

During a good space of time that the land stood,there he thought of what the enemy had already done.We knew that throughout the country, peace of mind, safty from all harm, security in home, all things greatly desired by all persons were not to to had.The war was not raging against the Christian cause only but even against Nature and the elements it seemed.Throughout Calverinia and all other states mankind had suffered much more than could be written, by reason of the horrors of the astonishing nature of the war, its great complication of dreadful calamities,and countless other evils that is known in war, sorrow, suforing loss of dear ones, the loss of a life times savings and everything of dread we can ever list.Throughout Calverinia and elsewhere because of the disasters there was immeasurable distress and perplexity, and even mens hearts were failing them for fear.Remedies had been sought out to stop disaster, to frustrate the hand of the foe, and rem y had been brought forward and tried, but no relief came therefrom, and the disasters only as grew in magnitude.

When he asked one of his companions on the matter that boy had said;

"A true and complete remedy for the evils and disasters resulting from the enemy can never be found without first ac ascertaining the real cause or how the enemy accomplishes the means to make these disasters."

"But I doubt that."

"There is not the slightest doubt, concerning the fact that there is relief for our States from the effects of these disasters, but knowledge of the providens for such relief Jack must be had before the needed relief can be embrassed. H rein an endeavor has been made to aid those who desire tonequire the knowledge of proving who is the real cause of these monsterous war crimes from the foe and his man made calamities and like war evils and to learn the remedy there for."

"How!"

"Why in so doing it will become necessary to make mention of some of the great evils of this most disasterous of wars that have fallen upon Calverinia and her sister states to show who is responsible therefor to show the uselessness so far of human remedies, and then to give consideration to the truth which discloses the complete remedy and deliverance ofour peoples from the wars horrible horrible conclusions."

"But there is no such provision "said Jack to Secret.

"Maybe not so far, but if there is provisions for the complete deliverance of Calverinia, that relief alone then must be provided by Him who created man and who made the world.Our Blessed Lord is the Eternal One who created Heaven and earth and men upon the earth.That Jack is the first fundamental truth for men to learn.The Holy Bible is an expression of the Will of God written inthe Works of the Apostles to enable men to who are sincere to learn the truth.The Bible is a light to guide the course of men who want towalk in the right way.The Bib bible is the truth.The man who relies upon Gods word, the Bible and fashions his course of action accordingly is a blessed or greatly favored man.The Bible is the reliable authority for the statements of which I desire to make.It discloses that God is the Jehovah of Eternity, which means he is without beginning, and without end, the Great First Cause and the Au hor Author and builder of that which abides forever.He is thenost High, is Almighty Inower perfect in wisdom, equal and exact in justice, and is Love.Every god gift is from from Him, and all His ways are right.God hates unrighteousness,and wicked ness, and all the workers of iniquity.Eve y act of God is prompted by unself ishness and He has pleasure in those who learn to be unselfish.

Now even before Him as we see ourselves the world is full of sorrow and woe because o f this dreadful war.There is such a great amount of suffering here we cannot fathom it.Crimes from Clandelinia, wicked calamities and their results have been and are with us, and all the people of Calverinia suffer.Many ask if Calverinia and her states are so good, and God is just, Wise and all powerfull loving and kind, why would he permit Clandelinia to do all

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this, and so terribly devastate Calverinia and her sister states.The correct answer to this question is absolutely essential to know the remedy for the disasters, and at least most of all the preventive remedy."

"But what subject would that be?"

"Well to consider the subject fairly and more clearly"said George, every side of the awful disasters must be examined.For this reason each reference should be made of these enormous war crimes, calamities we call them, and other evils that had so thrown down the Calverinian countries.They say Cain from jealousy killed Cain Able his brother.Clandelinia is so wicked that to her Cain is a Saint.Since the war on us on things have occured that shocks the world. The record of every horrior that has occured since the war came overied the whole christian and Clandelinian countries with human blood unrighteously shed by Clandelinia in the frightful battles, massacres and calamities.We know that at the Birth of Our Blessed Lord the Angels of Heaven sang"Peace on Earth, and Good will towards men."This war looks the part don't it.Hatred from Clandelinia, malice, endmurder of thousands of innocent children,and ravaging battles rage and continue unabated.Even Our Blessed Lord we all know was cruelly and judicially murdered.He was God, Good, All Holy, Harmless, without fault or any sin, and yet because the Hypocrites hated Him they saw to it He was nailed to the Cross of wood, and murdered of a broken hea Heart.Nearly all the holy men who walked with himand served with him wereput to a cruel death after suffering great indignities and persecution.When the followers of Jesus organized into a body or organization, to bring Christianity into the World, the Roman Government under the Emperors persecuted them without a cause, andput many of them to a most violent death.Then the Roman Catholic Church, became a very bleeding sor for years before it finally won out.The cruel Inquisition has b made a record too horr horrible for dew deser p description in human words.In that time upon the slightest suspicion or rumor a man would maliciously hale his neighbor before the court of inquisition, and thereupon no proof proof the man was subjected to indescribable torture.These instruments of torture were manipulated in such a way as topull apart the joints of the body and tear away the flesh from the bone.Some of the victims were required toput on a metal boot which t was then filld with molten lead, while other instruments were usedto gouge out their eyes or cut out their tongues."

"But that is nothing." said Jack." This historical record of Clandelinia is far worse stained with human blood shed to free Clandelinia from the mother country so she can continue her wicked child slave trade, and of which the massacre of so many children is a striking instance . I remember just recently from what I have seen in the newspaper on the 24th of this month of July just past at the instance of general Federal, all the women and children of towns captured, with thousands of war and flood refugees were bu brutally massacred. So terrible was the slaughter as the newspapers reported that the edge of the flood ran red with human blood.Then throughout that region followed a long and most bloody persecution carried on at the instance of the Clandelinian generals for under the influence of these terrible generals was committed one of the most flagrant blunders in the history of this war which in the course of a few days caused the massacre of four hundred thousan d persons.The malicious generals of the Clandelinian armies,together with the arrogant officers of other rank continued the oppressive disasters untill the storm of the terrible war horrors broke with redoubled violence.Then again the tide of slaughter was renewed, and The Clandelinian soldiery went mad and resort ed to deeds of cruelty and awful slaughter that beggar deser p description.Because of this awful war Clandelinia had produced great calamities which beggar in description all calamities of every nation.Cyclones, Tidal Waves, earthquakes, and floods and disease, pestilences and famines which has swept away millions into their very graves and suddenly plunged millions of others into great sorrow has nothing on our own great war disasters.I've seen by the news and bulletins that the surviving ones cry out in desperation;

"How was Clandelinia able to force these terrible calamities to come upon us."

"But how does Clandelinia get away with it?" asked Jack.

"No one can say"answered George."Why the offiels reports of the nation of Abbisennia show that the annual disaster list of lives lost has increaded in number since the beginning of the horrors last June, and that the othdr other sorrows and miseries have increased in like proportion.Clandelini a leaves no clues so she whether she really is responsible or not.The Abbisannian rulers have appointed a war horror commission to investigate and and ascertain the cause of these awful disasters, and suggest a preventive remedyfor such disasters in the future.I read that in a public address about that time that Emperor Vivian said,"Because of the enemy life and property are relatively more unsafe in Calverinia at press nt than any other section of the war storm districts."

"And Mildred is afraid the enemy is winning the war."Said Jack.

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"I have heard that too." said George.

"We entered this dreadful war in Jan.7th 1914"continued George, and have already already sent hundreds of millions of men to the scene of battle.Shortly there after began the coming and the increase of war disasters produced by the enemy, sendsince them disasters have continued to increase, all of which it blamed properly at the door of wicked fanatical Clandelinia, who we feel sure caused also the unaccountable and immeasureable Abbisann Reign of Terror and its long continued cruel results.Therefore Emperor Vivien have urged the most rigid measures to put a stop to these disasters."

"I believe that's going into effect"said Jack."I saw in a paper where half a ton of unexploded mines were found in the basement of a muj munition store at Francis Atlanta, resulting in two strangers being sentenced to thirty three years in jail and fifty thousand dollar fine.On the same day two others were sentenced to ten years and a fine of two thousand dollars because explosives were found in their pockets. Since this month passed public records shows that 17,789 men of strange and suspicion nations have been killed in the attempt to prevent disasters and all these were found to be Clandelinian vandals up to some attempted destructive work."

"Yes"said George "and I remember a Calverinian Court recently handed down a decision holding that any person who knows that there is a suspicious man in his neighborhood and finds he is in possession of suspicious powers and explosives, and fails to report the fact to federal authorities is guilty of the same crime as if he was going to do it himself.This seems the only way so far to try to end prevent in the future disasters that have caused the deaths of so many hundreds of thousands. Everywhere throughout the world the public press is filled daily with accounts of these horrors.Of these disasters of the wrand the suffering in even high official places as well as among the poorer classes of people.The nations of the world at first did not believe such stories thinking them too far exaggerated and that the news paper men were crazy. Countless little children are devoured by fires, floods and struck down to destruction everywhere everywhere, and the mothers are crazed with grief because of their great loss.The clergymen and priests who officiate at the funerals say in substance;

"These little children were innocent and harmless but Clandelinia has done this, but never fear poor parents God took them away that He might have them in Heaven to testify against Clandelinia.Clandelinia is bringing on herself dire ruin.You poor broken hearted mothers or fathers will some day have fair satisfaction.Our Blessed Lord is all Merciful, and Holy, and forebearing, but there is a limit to a thing.You may say why does Clandelinia do all this? Well the question is why.But she will be punished sooner or later.God is just and loving, and He is not to blame for these disasters one bit.Clandelinia shall render an account to Him."

"I believe everything is true"said Jack.The history of the world shows that the Clandelinian generals have been connected either directly or indirectly with the dreadful horrors of this war, persecution, murder of thousands of child ren, these disasters and deliberate massacres.Every one can tell that wicked Clandelinia is fully responsible for all the disasters that have come, which have increase the sorrow of surviving parents.The whole world charges Clandelinia with connniving at and approving all manner of horrible war crimes, and these stupendous calamites.In the name of the great generals cruel and wicked laws are made and maliciously enforced, and many other crimes are committed.The result is that Clandelinia stands charged with all the war crimes and calamities that have befallen Calverinia since the war began.The charge is not only true and proven, but Clandelinia does these disasters for the purpose of a cruel and wicked defiance tion of Gods Great and Holy Name and to defy Him andour nation.Reference is made continually to the suffers sufferings of all these insanse droves of refugees from Clandelinias crimes and producing of these calamities.And there is a wide difference between the calamities of explosions, forest fires, massacres and floods but they all count the same cause."

"Clandelinia is a great evil to the wo whole world"said George.Clandelinia through her wicked child slave trade created this war, and her efforts was very bad for our own side."Mildred however told me that if allour followers do good, the nation would sooner or later ouseout good, and that for her dreadful doings some evil would sooner or later befall Clandelinia.Clandelinia has even violated the very laws of war itself.That means that Clandelinia has for mad the war, and caused all these disasters, and destroyed peace.And the enforcement of these disasters worked evil more to Clandelinia, because it brought the enmity of the whole world against her.However ver Clandelnia no mat er matter whether she left any clues or not is guilty of these two big disasters now raging on.It therefore follows that Clandelinia produced disasters which never came from natural disturbances.Clandelinia has committ ed a crime which is wicked, malicious a and mischievious, a wrongful act committed in full violation of the laws of warfare.The resul ts of this disaster brings sorrow and adversity, and therefre probably evil upon us both; but will result worse for the nation that had committed it.I know clandelinia made this disaster with p malice.Such a wrongful act on thepart of wicked clandelinia has been done

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doing all this without regard to what it may result and it worked adversely to our aide.Gland-linia we are all sure can s caused the Abbissann calamity. Glandelinia did that to even frustrate a christian pursuit of an army.When a christian army persued general Centuns Glandelinian army and attempted to force it to battle, the enemy generals opened a lever of some river and caused the flood to envelope the christian army and almost destroy it.Such was a cowardly disaster to our army, and it was injustly and unfairly inflicted,and therefore a war crime. The Glandelinian army under general Assyria attacked a christian army besieged in the town of Jerusalem Calvernia State, and a defying Our Blessed Lord as captured the town and after the surrender, decieved the christian general and slewone hundred and eighty five thousand of the inhabitants by sword and fire.That too was a dismabar; and a murderous crime.Though the enemy spared the captured army it did not spare the women and the children of the town.It is therefore easily and clearly seen that Glandelinia is to blame and also responsible for the sufferings of our millions of refugees.It is the commission of the wrongful act of war, and Glandelinia deserves a just punishment."

"But who is going to do it?" asked Jack."There a creature attempts to inflict wrong for wrong even for that cause and so forth, we ain't that a evil too, some wrong on the act of revenge. And God says we should forgive."?

"What is done in repay for a war de crime is a different thing as long as the fight continues."said George.

"I cannot understand that "said Jack."From time to time during this war, there are great "Cyclones" of war disasters, terrible conflicts, floods, and other devastations that destroys much property andlife, and these are calamities.But though Glandelinia is responsible would we not do the same if we had had the chance when invading our country.?"

"That's queer question"said George."But before this I hardly think so.We would how do it sure for repay. War is war you know."

"Another thing"said Jack,"the question has been frequently asked, if God is Almighty in Power, perfect in wisdom, exact in justice, and in Love, why does he permit so much Horrors from Glandelinia.Why does he not prevent it?"

"That's hard tonny"answered George."The wrong answers to these questions has causedmany personsoutside of our nation to think that God is not able to do anything to prevent it.There is a false answer which I have heard many remark."

"Tell me what it is so we may better appreciate the true answer."

"The reason often given, and which is not correct , probably is this; "That God e permitted the practice of evil in order that he can keep the people under his dominion, to free men from the path of sin, and in order that the angels might learn similar lessons by observation.But that is not so.The true facts may be that he allows it to try our faith in Him or the faith of the nations it is our Cross as well as for his His sake for the Cross he bore to cleanly and bad besides He only allows a certain thing to go the limit and no more.Fully fifty percentage of the in human race ofour nation because of the war died in infancy and without the chances to learn between right and wrong.The Glandelinians have caused many child slaves to grow up as mental infants, regard less of what age and without the Scriptural knowledge so they hope to see them lose their souls, and prevented Baptisms.Glandelinia is responsible for all and therefore there would be no opportunity for anyone to learn the needed lessons by exeriences.I feel sure Gla Our Blessed Lord will restrain Glandelinia in the near futire fur future, and therefore ,just now there must be some good reason why He has not restrained Glandelinia."

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CHAPTER NINE... Part 2.

IN WHICH GERTRUDE CONCLUDES THAT ADVENTURE IS NOT ALL IT SEEMS.

WHAT THEY FOUND IN THE CUPOLA OF THE FOREST FIRE.

WICKED GLANDELINIA.

IN WHICH GERTRUDE GIVES JACK A BIT OF ADVICE WHICH ALMOST BRING UNDER FIRE IS NOT WITHOUT ITS EFFECT..."...

FROMA morning till noon of this day August 4th the current of events around the Orphan Asylum except the encounter with the ship raiders flowed on with scarcely a ripple.All that time Gertrude Angeline and even Jack Sanders had become more friendly.Indeed with the exception of Francis Green, they had not a single troublesome one among their troop, and even Francis Greens foolishness had grown less demonstrative.As a fit preparation for his own good Jack Sanders had resolved to make himself far less careless, and he now regretted that from his carelessness he had made a laughing stock out of himself, and he was on the alert to do something toward even closing the breach between himself and Dolores Mic-Hollester, the whom whom he had suspicion was partially his foe if not exactly one. A slight change in the routine of the scout work gave him the desired opportunity. Toward the ending of the noon time dinner, it was found necessary to make some repairs in the western corner of the Dormitory.

In consequence seventeen of the boyscouts, and eighteen of the girls occp occupying beds in that part were assigned temporary accomodations in the attic of the main Orphan Building, a structure towering high above all its fellows. It was probably a Wednesday evening Noon when Angeline Richon announced the names of those who were to change their sleeping quarters.Jack, his two best friends and Green,and others with whom our story has nothing to do composed this privileged number.

To add a zest to the privilege he she allowed the seventeen boys and eighteen girls to explore their improved bedroom immediately after dinner, and therefore very quickly after dinner Gertrude at the head the building resounded to the tramp of many feet scamporing nimbly up the stairs, as though on a mission of life and death.....

"Whoop-la." cried Jack as he burst into the great room, somed and ribboned overhead with heavy beams."It's like the big attic of a haunted house only bigger isn't it Miss Gertrude?"

"It's an immense place for you boys and girls to have fun." rompondended Gertrude."Look at all the corners and hiding places.We can play "I spy here" if we don't feel too sleepy and tired at nights.My but its hot."

"Yes I believe its hot"assented Jack,"And at night we might climb out on the roof and count the stars if we can see them.Did you ever count the sharses Miss Gertrude.???"

"No, did you!!!!!!"

"I tried itone night when I first entered camp life, when I was lying in bed outside and it was too hot too sleepp.I got as far as one hundred and fifty seven and then I went off sound asleep.But there are lots more than one hundred and and and fifty seven."""

"I guess there is over a hundred thrillion billions" said Green reflectively.

Both felt that their remarks had fairly reach the mark.

"Come on Gertrude "said Jack."Let's get out on the roof and see if we can see the fires better from there."

As he spoke he pointed toward a ladder which led up to a cupola rising some twenty feet above the roof of the building.This cupola gave access to the roof of by means of a small door which opened at the side, and was secured from within by a strong bolt. Followed by Gertrude, Green and others ran up the ladder, shot back the bolt, and made their way upon the roof.

"I'd like to have a signal station on a roof like this"said Jack tranquily, as he walked over the eastern verge, and gazed down upon the yard nearly sixty feet below.

"Come back you careless idiot." cried Gertrude, in what she considered her most permuasive accents,"You'll get dizzy and reel over."

"I bet I'll won't." answered Jack."Don't you think I've ever been on a high roof before.This one isn't steep like ours, its flat, but we are a heap higher.I say Gertrude how would you likw to stand on top of that tall lightning rod!" and Jack motioned with his index finger toward the tip of a tall rod, which rose above the cupola.Gertrude ran over, caught hold of the rod and shook it.

"I wouldn't like it at all, unless I wanted to break my neck,.and besides its loose.What will you bet that even though I'm a girl I'm strong enough to pull it down."

"It isn't ours Gertrude."

"I'd just as soon as pull it down as n t not to prevent the enemy using it." continued Gertrude.Nevertheless she let go her hold upon it, and turned away.

Jack had occassion to remember this episode subsequently, though at the moment but he and Gertrude dismissed the subject so lightly.Some thirteen or fourteen others now found their way to the roof, and the conversation made up in great part of "Oh" and "aha" had become quite general and noisy, when Penrod appeared, and advised all to come down as theywere needed for something.

"Better go"said Gertrude."I'll remain below till Dolores comes to meet me."

Jack and gertrude, were the first to descend, followed by the others in Indian file.The last to remember shut the door behind him, but forgot to bolt it. The omission passed unnoticed.

"I say Miss Richee"Observed Jack solemnly, as Mildred Maxwell came walking up"I"thought she said once she did not believe Angelinia Will ever win the war."

"Indeed, I wouldn't advise people to tell everything I say." said Mildred."It give bad example."And she winked an eye.

"Well Miss Maxwell, you gave us bad example. "

"How?"

"I'm tempted to feel you are right."

And satisfied with his answer, Jack was about to hurry away, when he was arrested by Gertrudes voice.

"You'll have to do some work for us, Jack and I know you don't mind.I want five or six boys to bring over pillows and bedding, the soldiers will attend to the beds and mattresses.You might get some of your girl friends to help you."

A"All right Miss Gertrude, that will be fun."As Jack spoke he saw an eager look upon Dolores 's face." and I say" Gertrude"he continued,"Can't Dolores direct us, she is willing...."!

"Of course"was the cordial answer, accompanied by a look at Dolores.

Poor Dolores, there was a real wholesome bluch blush upon her handsome face as she blurted forth some disjointed words of thanks.

"Well commented Gertrude to herself, as the lads and the girls went pattering down the stairs that boyscout Jack has unconsciously taught me another lesson.I mustn't forget to notice the hard cases now and then.Unless I'm mistaken Dolores will be his friend in another week."

"Gertrude is one of the best girlscouts we have."Dolores observed, as they went trotting acrossu the yard.

"Isn't she"said Jack.

"And so are you, and you'd be better if you could cure yourself of your carelessness,"added Dolores.

"I'll cure myself."

"Here let's shake on it. " said Dolores.

Jack did so, but grew very red as he did.Dolores laughed.Her only enemy was won over.D olores had brought a diary from home having made a promise to h erself on buying it to write something in it every day.That early afternoon she opened it for the tirtheenth time and made this entry.

"August the second.1913.

Since being a girlscout, I have noticed that we can do wonders if we try.To day I am ten years old going on elefen eleven.? This year near Fall I'm going away to work on some mystery pertaining to Abbieann disaster.My new friends na me is Jack Sanders.I guess he is one of the bravest boys we have. He saved Jean when Jack Hans deserted her, and captured the des rter."

Dolores Mic-Hollester
Jennings."

On the following morning August the 3th Gertrude Angeline and and her whole force were back again in the ruined city of Ge St Gertrude, having gone to try and get a more survey of it, hoping the ruins had cooled by this time. This day with a west wind blowing the air was then quite clear, and as they came well nigh near the city they recieved a shock. Where the pucture city of St Gertrude had stood, the whole of Gertrudes force found only a heap of still smouldering ruins, the funeral pyres of charred bodies.Since the air was now more clear of smoke, the scene to them was far more appalling than what they had observed the few days before, and charred bodies were to be seen in every inconceivable poisition position la lying as they fell when the "Fiery fury Of this "Red Plague overtook the city without warning.Among the first to reach the city, was Penrod, Gertrude Angeline and Jennie Turner.Gertrude felt she could not give any graphic description of the sights and scenes of the stricken city.Despite the west wind partial darkness overhung the city, as the girlscouts entered the surburbs owning to the pall of distant forest fire smoke which rested far above and low of mountains and slopy hills forested with burning ruin.The flood coast for some reason or other was alive with small boats, but noone was in the small craft.To make Gertrude and her followers more surprised the water running sluggishly nearest shore was filled with swollen bodies and thick masses of debris from wrecked flood towns further up.Flocks of scavenger birds swurmed over the water, and the scouts shot a number of them for sport.The waters

waters of the flood was infested with dead an animals of all kinds.Gertrude taking the lead entered the town nearest the towns docks.Near a small stream which run into the town at this point several big houses far seperated from othe others were found little injured but windows were out.But their occupants had all perished.They were lying in all postures.

"I wonder how they must have died!"asked Penrod.

"I believe they either died from suffocation or by strokes produced by the awful heat." answered Jennie Turner."

"But it is sure the fire didn't kill them, as they are not burned.See there are two of them a man and woman sitting inposition as easy and natural as though still li living.How does that count!"

"That's a mystery"said Gertrude.

"Why this part of the town which was thought to have perished has escaped almost unsinged"said Dolores.The flood of fire stopped within two hundred feet of this district."

"There's a big gap between this part of the town and the burned area"said Jack Sanders."Maybe that had something to do with it."

"Let's go through the principal streets of San Sebastion, San Pedro and others"suggested Gracedelinia."

They did.They found that the residences on the upper section of the big town were utterly annihilated and these ruins were still smoking.A wide street divided the upper and southern part of the town.Complete destruction had fallen upon the southeastern part of the city, which stood upon a tree charred slope above the northern section of the town.The smouldering wreckage of buildings and of trees torn from the forest by the "fire hurricane" had been swept down into the level below. Gertrude said;

"This wreckage is astonishing.Why this uprooting, and twising and break ing of these trees looks the same as if it had been done by a tornado.The trees are all lying charred and bent tward the flood.The heat of the fie must have produced this terrific wind."

"What seems more astonishing"said Angeline Jennings is that we have traveled far into the city now and we have found only a small number of bodies.If it is said a great loss of life occured what is this accounting for."

"It seems strange but I don't know"said Penrod.It "It is known that some fifty thousand perished, bi but if they did they might have died while in flight through the burning forest and not here.Or evidently the bodies may have been totally cremated by the flames which consumed the town.See indisputable evidences of this is found.Here is a part of a body I have dug it up, the rest has been consumed.I believe therefore they have been commuded consumed.I believe also that the forest fire produced a suffocating heat which caused the deaths of the people before the fire consumed the town.This we see girls is indicated by what we can see of the corpsi corpses many of which have their hands lifted to their mouths as though to prevent suffocation.The heat coming so suddenly from the conflagration must have been dreadful."

They continued on.Many strange incidents were observed by the scouting force.The charred remains of a woman, with a cloth han dkerchief, unburned and in perfect condition, held to her lips, and wearing an unburned nightgown was found in a half burned brick house.Side by side with bodies burned toa crisp were bodies but slightly or not burned at all.One was found whole except one leg which had been burned to ashes.Strangest freak of the conflagration was that some articles of clothing on the dead, had scarcely been scorched unless they lay in the smoulders.Purses were found almost intact.Contents of burned houses had not been entirely destroyed though some were still smoking, such as mattresses, piles of clothing, trunks and so forth.Remains of charred furniture were left in some cases with all the contents not even scorched,and in a few instances complete articles of furniture were found, but with such articles as clothing and paper ruined.

While they ex scoured the ruins Gertrude at the advice of Angeline Richee placed the city under military guard to cover their own force in case of enemies coming in, but Gertrude felt it would be impossible to explore the entire area of ruins that day as the city was too extensive, almost Chicago in size. In spite of the almost complete destruction, valuables were everywhere exposed, which would be a rich temptation for thieving Glandelinian invaders, so at the command of the leaders the boy and girlscout who found or saw anything of valu vaule should secure it to take it saftly to the home when they returned. .To make a clean sweep as to leave nothing for Glandelinia vandals.Goods in the store houses were found burned and destroyed, but much that was of value remained to be preyed upon by rebels and they r decided to prevent that was securing all that was possible and to have their soldier s form a cordon about the town untill either everything was secured and brought to the home or untill they were able to renew their trip for Evangeline St Claire..Sll this time the smoke of the smouldering fires of the ruined forests beyonf beyond the town was heavy, and the town was darkened by this low cloud of thick smoke which formed as if from many volcanic discharges.It would take days for this forest smoulder to burn itself out.The roadstead of the flood nearest the town presented to them a forlorn appearance.

I think it is terrible."

It was full of ships b longing to towns further up but borne down by the flood, and it was along shofre littered with wrecks floating by as far as eye could see.The wreck of one big ship half charred lay close to shore stranded and jammed with the wreck of floated houses and other materials.How could relief sh p ships be expected to reach refugees by means of the flood. This is what Gertrude said as she and the whole force took a rest in an open square of the town where there was not quite so much heat!!!!

"I would not want to be with any of the survivors who went through this dreadful horror and lived.It is a town, nay a whole country seemingly accursed. Fire, flood, explosions and complications of horror which we cannot measure. There is the flood, yonder but for us water is unobtainable.To drink flood water means death unless you boil it first.The air here is hot and stifling, and that we stand and can stand the sickly dead,y deadly odor of burned flesh which prevades the whole place seems wonderful.But I guess I'm used to it."

"War hardens us." said Jean."The sights and th o scenes in th ose streets could make all but strong men ill.Yet we stand it.""

"But I couldn't eat here." said Gertrude.

"Neither could I"said the rest.

"No body could recognize any these those dead, they are too badly burned." said Penrod."If any one does try to identify any of these dead, they will have poor success.And it is impossible to interr the bodies.The rescuers may soon come when everything cools off andpile up the bodies in heaps to burn.But what need.Many of these ruins still burn constantly.And the troops and population of this part of the country is suffering from the general demoralization because of the disastors being sowide spread.The whole country seems to be under a terrible strain, and shows the results.No wonder Mildred, you don't believe we'll win.I'm almost believing the same.What you say Miss Maxwell?"

"I do not know for facts"shecanswered.The whole country is demorlilized, and it is impossible topr serve order under the circumst nces. Armies can't come this way because of flood and fire.The whole situation seems far too immeasureable to be real.It puts me in mind of the Worlds Last days already here.And it looks it too.Why no matter where you look, from even a high point there's nothing east, north or south of us but burning desolation, seas of smoke, and smoulder, and to the west, flood filled with wreckage meets sky like the ocean ocean.It seems incredible but we see it and got to believe it."

"But what do you think of the o tcome of the war."

"I'm discouraged it is true, and fear we'll lose, but I'm always praying that I'm mistaken."

"I believe"said Elsie Ruth Mic-Whirther,"that the only living persons who are believed to have come through the forest fire arive alive are those who might have been awakened in time and escaped to shore or through the forest to large clearings and lakes.I believe the hundreds from neighboring districts, whose bodies we see strew the waters of the flood in this locality were lost in a maddened flight from the city and burning forests, which they attempted in small boats.I heard that from the survivors it was learned that in the insane panic which attended the sudden approach of the forest fire from the east the people who escaped the town seized upon the frailest boats to get away.I believe in this way many were lost who otherwise might have been saved."

"Interviews with survivors of this disaster between us might confirm the awful suddeness of the catastrophe." said Angeline Riches."If we could find any we could question them.But I believe an ernormous quanity of parching heat preceding the flames produced awful atmospheric pressure, which overwhelmed everything before it.I have heard of the dreadful force of these so called "Fire hurricanes"."

"Yes"observed George"and the awful heat absorbed suddenly by the bodies of the victims caused them to burst,and the fire consuming the town soon afterwards, or catching many in flight, carbonized them or creamed them."

As minute after minute went by, for time passes slowly even in a scene of forest fire horror, their wrk of investigating the ruined city advanced with varying speed.Sometimes the distnat fires of freshly burning forests were apparently close, and then again would come some distant explos on that would shake the earth, and even from that distance rain torrents of small stones sticks and ashes over the exploring parties in the desolated city.Gertrude found it was possible to prenetrate the ourskirts of the city only from the southwest nearest the edge of the flood, where she had landed by water at the other times.She noticed where the houses were more thickly built, the storm of fire had done the fiercest work, and the ruins probably were hiding the bodies of the mant thousands they engulfed in an indescriably horrible doom. On every hand there had been found funeral pyres produced by the conflagration. And scenes beggaring all descriptions had been produced by the effects of the dreadrul "Red Plague. ".None of the streets were narrow, and yet in the widest streets, in the gardens of woods partly covered by the deposit of ashes left by the conflagration hundreds of bodies of animals also were l ing lying. Wherever

they cam to a spot that was easily reached and not too hot or too hard to climb over, the little girls and boys came closer.They saw a pile of corpses that were part charred bodies and part ashes.This they believed was even partially des tryoni destroying the possible menance of a postilence.Gertrude thought that even the plague could not stalk in the wake of the conflagration as the fire made sure work.Reeking with the fumes of smoke from smoulders, her face almost showing the horor of the work in which she was engaged, Jennie Turner stepped back from a dreadful pile of bodies.She believed nevertheless that the thousands of dead that may not have been cremated by the fire must sooner or later be totally disposed of or the countey will after the disaster slacks be given over to the plague and blotted from the earth entirely.She had asked som of her soldier escorts to make some dispeition of the dead that they may not remain a menance of the living, but there was no fueil of any kind anywhere neither any oil and it could not be done and they told her that simply enough.Though Angeline Riches was directing the work in person, she explained to her followers that their explorations needed little directions.

"Though it's a disagreeable duty that we do it is altogether for our cause, for the motive of humani y, and to get proés on the enemy." Angeline Riches said to Gertrude."It isn duty to the living, to the cause, and to gen it in on the Glandelinians.We have no proofs that the enemy is responsible for the floods, but we have proofs ample enough that the fire is Glandelinias doing.We should from case of necessity burnup all the remaining bodies that are found, but our soldiers cannot procure the material for the work..The fires have destroyed all the coal n oil that may have been obtained, and wiped out alo the wood that could be had.Alas a lake of oil and a forest of wood that could have done the work v even may have been consumed.I've seen there are still countless of half cremated or not cremated corpses in every direction in this city of death, and unless some means of cremation will be found sooner than now the pu populat ion of this part of the country will be wiped out by plague."

"We cannot dare try to approach othe center of the city." said Dolores"And we cannot progress in our salvaging.It would beimpossible to do anything at all if it was not four the cowage we all have.At least I believe curiousity merely overcomes horror and fear.How many people lost family and fortune in these great eas catastrophe only Heaven knows.But we are here now to see the x calamity at its worst, but no one yet has any means of telling how many have died in the overwhelming of this city."

"I've seen by some paper" said Joy St Claire." that far away Calverine city is crowded with refugees from both disasters, and there even because of such an er normous body of refugees food is becoming so scarce, and communication is cut off by foe and disaster that alarm is being felt that it would be exhausted before supplies canreach there.I believe Mildred is right.I'll bet we'll lose the war."

"Refugees arive by many boatloads"said Daisy Jones.The Calverinia River cruiser Turthet, and many brigs, lighters, and small river vessels of all kinds that could be used were still busy bringing refugees to Calverine and other citds and townsout of reach of disaster."

"Yes and as a result of their efforts the people who had fled the war zone , the number c is nearly four million." said Jane Melfort.

"And they are all in a most pitiable condition, thousands of them ill from exposure to hot weather, ill from bad food, many thousands of them injured or frightfully burned,, and in urgent need of medical care, and such care now hard to find with so many doctors and surgeons andnurses in our hard battling armies and elsewhere.All the doctors and nurses who are in Calverine, Francis Atlanta and other cities are said to be working night and day among the injured burned, and sick, assisted by scores of volunteer nurses, many women of the wealthiest familes of Calverine giving their services.The hospitals and large public buildings schools and so forth are crowded with injured sick and burned.I heard last sunday a number of river steamers taking chances with the flood, including the Calverine City Government vessel Rubie,.started from Sans or Zanaeustopolius for Mildred Greenburg.They carried government delegates, a number of soldiers, provisions for the refugees there, a detatchment of regular

ewer"said Dolores." ... and its effect must be told sooner

"But whos going to bring the correct answer?" asked Elsie Ruth Mic-Whirthers

"That's easily explained "said Penrod"We cannot do anything to ret restrain Glandelinia properly, because to the world both sides seem involved in the

I think it is terrible."

It was full of ships belonging to towns further up but borne down by the flood, and it was along shore littered with wrecks floating by as far as eye could see. The wreck of some big ship half charred lay close to shore stranded and

Domdobian Inan Ifantry, and thirteen priests, and several nuns. The vessel also carried a quantity of fire wood, petroleum, and quicklime for use in the cremation of the bodies of the victims. Large quantities of disinfectants and stocks of clothing for the refugees were also shipped for Mildred Greenburg. Yet the poors gave the awful news that these were seized by Glandelinian soldiery also in ships armed, and the materials either seized or destroyed and those on board the ships except the priests and two nuns m taken prisoners. The latter were murdered. That shows what kind of an enemy in Glandelinia our nation has to deal with...""""""""""

"The main number of refugees" said Jean, "As a rule assembled assembled at Calverine, Mildred Greenburg, and Cantonia, each quite some distance from Calverine, and it was reported that over 10,000 10,000 of them had died since the fires surprised the towns."

The force of scouts continued their investigations. From a slave elevation in the town, they could see that the flood for miles around was covered with the wreckage of broken houses, and of many ships crushd or sunk by the irresistible force of the floods beginning; and ashore only a few trees that had escaped the fire flames, all bent waterward by the force of the "Fire Hurricane" were left standing. Even this day the heat from the smoking ruins was suffocating and the stench from the corpses strewn streets was something awful. No matter where our heroes and heroines went they found on all sides portions of corpses , with some limbs even burned away entirely. Not a drop of water was obtainable on shore and they began to feel dreadfully thirsty. And the darkness caused by the clouds of smoke also shrouded the city and the whole landscape, and continuous strange rumblings added to the horror of the scene. On a side street they came upon a spot where some burned and ruined walls indicated where some town Orphan Asylum had stood, and traces of the larger buildings could be seen.

They also found in that neighborhood hundreds of corpses which they observed were lying in allkinds of attitudes, showing that the victims had met death as if by a heat stroke. And still more curiously to them, they observed that the features of the dead were generall generally calm, and respo reposeful, although also in many cases terrible fright, and agony were depicted. Grim myride myrinds of bodies of various and animals also lay strewn about, showing that death had stricen stricken every creature, while the crowds whodid not escape were vainly seeking to get away from the fire storm.

"Fortunately a good part of this country was evacuated inwood time by most of the inhabitants, who fled to Calverine" said Dolores."

"But it does not seem to help matters" said Angeline Riches. "The dearth of provisions is beginning to be felt throughout the land. Countless n uibers of families have been completely ruined and shelterless, while the means at the disposal of the authorities are terribly inadequate to compe with such immensr cable distress."

"The destruction throughout a large part of our country is indeed appalling" said Penrod. "In this city the streets are a number of feet deep in ashes and wreckage from the burned houses, which no doubt cover thousands of dead bodies scorched to ashes, or scorched black and shiny as if they had been plunged into boiling pitch. Many of those dead we have seen never word were touched by the actual flames, and some of the houses and wood work destroyed by the wind show no signs of burning."

As they progressed still further they observed that in the extreme western portion of the city of St Gertrude the city Post Office was still standing as high as the second story, while further on, in the northwestern part of the town the most massive stonework of burned buildings were literally calcined. The tower of an old Church two centuries or more old of Grecian work was now a bufe heap of wreckage and the ruins of the church were still smoking. Indeed the stench throughout the city of Gertrude was terribly offensive. They now came upon a street where they could not go further because it was badly obstructed by hugepiles of smoking debris, and dead bodies. The girlscouts knew that the work of cleaning the thoroughfares would need the employment of large armies of Glandelinian prisoners for many months at the point of the bayonet.

all descriptions had been produced by the effects of the dreadful "Red Plague." "None of the streets were narrow, and yet in the widest streets, in the gardens of woods partly covered by the deposit of ashes left by the conflagration hundreds of bodies of animals also were l ing lying. Wherever

They observed that the extreme northwest of the town was still preserved, and a portion at the extreme west nearest the flood were untouched. They felt sure the disaster was becoming quadrupled, and they knew also that the surviving inhabitants had been trying to reach a haven in boats by means of the flood, and that many drowning casualties would or were being reported. And assistance was not yet arriving. Fire and flood was preventing that.

Notwithstanding everything that occured, disasters elsewhere were reaping an enormous harvest. what remained ofcouthouses and laborerers cottages in the town were still aflame in places. This accounted for the smell of burning flesh. The heavy smoke, and the extreme heat of the smoulders left by the forest fires, and the flames combined were trying. At one oclock Gertrude went on foot to xSan Pedro street. Several more bodies that had been burned were passed on the street, and among them was the remains of a man in his nightshirt who had been killed while praying.

Outside roads to the city was almost impassable, even to f one afoot. it was filled with the trunks of smouldering half flaming trunks of trees and smouldering rubbish knee deep, and the entire hillsides all a smoulder looked dangerous. It appeared as if though one hillside might entirely collapse because of the heat. From a careful inspection of a dead horse and rider it was apparent he had been a messenger carrying a note of warning of the fire storms approach and that he had been overtaken and both he and the horse killed. Their limbs looked as if they had become rigid the moo moment they fell. The mans right leg was in the air as though it had become stiff while he was in the act of falling. There was another corpse under the horse, showing showing only a portion of one arm that may have belonged to a little girl or boy. There was much odor of burning ground and other inflammable stuff in this locality. But there was no odor of burning flesh. This may have been due to the reason that if any one were overtaken here all the exposed parts of the bodies were burned hard and dry. Gertrude hit one, and it soundedas though a stone had been struck. They also observed that under the fallen trunk of a large smouldering tree many bodies lying in a line.

"These victims" said Gertrude "had probably been crushed while trying to find shelter. The streets only contain charred and burned remains."

Several of Gertrudes boyscouts were engaged in breaking open safes in some ruined property to see what could be salvaged. Inside the fireproof safe of one they found the composition was melted into a peculiar mass. Considerable coin was found, but bank notes and paper money had been burned up.

"I heard recently" said Penrod as he surveyed a half broken down house" That "that recently some soldiers chartered a steamer of which name I forgot, and made a a special journey to the city of St Ann to inquire into a a certain story that a christian officer had looted relics from the Cathedals of the flood ruined city of Mildred Greenburg. The officer was arrested by his own men, but on being stated at the Court Marshall he stated that he and his men he conducted took the relics and Holy Materials for safe keepings for now since the flood up there was slightly abating he met many looters the day he was there. They were a glandelinians. After his return to the town of Callens Run he had some opportunity to catch a river craft bound for St Anns, and he went by itthough he said he was followed by secret enemies and had to be careful."

"But was it really true?" asked Jean and some of the other girls.

"Yes. He had no tim to turn the relics and other materials over to the sur authorities at that place but hadpositied them with the Mayor of Calverine for transmission to their rightful Catholic Owners. The Mayor of the city of Calverine confirmed the statement, and hewas set free."

"I've heard alot about looters" said Gertrude." The authorities of the various states, have now wakeup to the fact that looting on an immense scale is being carried out throughout the whole disaster ruin as far as the extensive scale oflooting can be done. The Mayor of Mildred Greenburg, found that Glandelinian thieves had broken into his own safe, and that bank notes money and jewelry and important city papers were missing. Later he had to call police and his assistants for protections against the looters, for they had returned and were closing in on him to rob or kill him to hide evidence....."""."

or later" said Dolores."

"But whos going to bring the correct answer?" asked Helio Ruth Mile-Whirther.

"That's easily explained" said Penrod "We cannot do anything to ret restrain Glandelinia properly, because to the world both sides seem involved in the

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"I seen in the Angelinia Agathia Daily Times(14th of July) that eventually about four thousand one hundred and fourty Glandelinian thieves were arrested in La Palma and brought to Spelandale.A force of Abyssinkilian cavarly under Colonel St Pierre went to meet the river steamer bringing them and escorted them to the Glandelinian prison camp."

"The looters"said Angeline Jennings still keep at work throughout the whole northern disaster zone, and many towns just recovering from the floods are infested as thick with them as a house is with bedbugs when no out one is trying to get rid of them.The police themselves and the home guards of hundreds of towns and scores of cities are not able to cope with them, or with the awful situation, but they are doing their best, and the paers and manypolice and soldiers of the home guards have been killed or severely wounded in the couse of fights with these Glandelinian robbers of the dead,and other rebels vandals who were seen breaking safes in ruined cities.Among the arrested Glandelinian looters was a colonel.The looters were sentenced to prison for the remainder of the war and the colonel was shot.All looters captured testif testified that they do this to secure the articles and money to help carry on the war against the christian tide against glandelinia. The citiz citizens of many towns have formed into guards to protect the property in their towns but it seems impossible."

"Yes and many furious mobs of enraged refugees and citizens, always try to lynch ghouls caughtplundering the dead and the ruins in their flood swept towns and cities." said Angeline Riches."Cries lf 'lynch them" fille the air and only by the displayof arms and threats to shoot by the troops and the police were the pilliagers lodged saftly in prisoners.Yet everywhere there are muttering crowds of grief stricken refugees and citi ens citizens rumme roam ing the wat water logged streets, and it is feared that many an attempt to lynch prisonersmight yet be successful.Many bodies, safes, and strong boxes, and ins intact ruins of houses were robbed,and Glandelinian ghouls overun many towns and cities.To prevent looting in these cities and towns the Govern ment of various states in the disaster zone have ap ointed commissions to explore systemically every ruined city and town for all valuables, money books papers and letters ofmilitary affairs.Home guard troops w ere placed on guard to prevent any except persons with autho ities from entering or searching and orders are to enforce with fullets at the first necessity.But the looting still goes on.This city we are in I'm afraid will be the next so its last for us to safe save what we can while we are here...."""

While they were here between one and two [illegible] forces [illegible] again resumed a more threatening aspect.

From explosions mysterious n and unknown but probably caused by the fires, the earth seemed torumble continually,and on the slope of a still forested hill three conflagrations were visible.Gertrudes followers were alarmed, but she would not change her work now,she had cameupon a police sta tion, and was horrified to come across a large pile of bodies lying face downward, and many others who appeared to have fallen while in the act of running to escape the awful fate impending of them. Penrod who had gone some distance in advance cameupon a distillery and found a quanity of rum intact in casks.Som of her boyscouts had pickedu up a few relics of no value save as souvenirs, but she would not allow them to retain the findings believing it might slightly be vandalism. Nowhere so far in this ruined city could there fortunately be found vanl vandals any where, and many buildings in the city and the surrounding districts also were observed to be still burning. Angeline Riches, Jennie Turmer, Mary Stanci, Ruth Mic-Whirther and a score of other girls made a visit to the site of the great St Margerets Cathedoral, where only sportion of the room walls were left standing.The six large bells lay in the center of the smoking ruins.The greater part of the alter had been scour scorched, and destroyed, but the golden cha chalices were still there not discolored, but slightly damaged by falling debris.In one large chalice was seen the ashes of what had been the Sacred Host.Three other Chalices were full of the Sacred Pa particles none of which awas even charred though they were slightly intermingled wth Mortar dust. A large stat.e of the Blessed Virgin outside the church lay on the ground but not injured.This together with the scene of many huge burned trees having

dreadrul "Red Plague. ".None of the streets were narrow, and yet in the widest streets, in the gardens of woods partly covered by the deposit of ashes left by the conflagration hundreds of bodies of animals also were l ing lying. Wherever

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been torn up by the roots and laid b flat with all foliage and branches burned away, scarce none left standing, and other indications, showing the wave of fire which passed over this section of the country must have been pre ceded by a hot windstorm of extreme hurricane or tornado velocity. Every house in the city of St Gertrude, even those that were most solidly of stone and brick were absolutely in ruins, and all wooden houses were mere ashes.The streets were piled many feet high in debris, and no matter where the explorerers went they could see in many directions hundreds of bodies. Near Algrove streeet the girl and boyscouts saw five hundred bodies that were immensely distened and in an advanced state of decomposition, and nearly all these dead were lying on their faces on the ground.Those found in the ruins of dwellings were badly ch arred.

The body of women and a child was found in a near by curb to which they had apparently fled in the hope of saving themselves from the fiery storm.They also found a learge heap of bodies in one spot.They also came to a few houses which escaped almost untouched.The windows and shas were gone, and the roofs were blonw blown off, but inside the furniture, paprs, books, articles of various kinds, and the flooring walls and so forth were mostly unscathed.The girls and boys also discovered safes and molten precious metals in stores and dwellings. Knowing what might occur Gertrude had given orders to the cavarly soldiers to permit no one o outside of their parties to penetrate into the city beyond the street running along the flood front, and she and Angeline Riches had seen to it that a strong cordon of soldiers were placed around the town for the time they would remain in this locality.The St Peters Cathedral was also burned down,with the exception of the main walls, and of the priest house the walls alone remained standing.The great Convent belonging to the same Cat hdederal which was believed tocontain five hundred children during school daysand fourty six nuns disappeared, as did the High School where seventeen hundreds boys and girls and twenty three priests, and fifteen nuns were domiciled.

The girlscouts discovered many strange incidents as they continued their investigations, and they saw evidences of how some of the people had reaillly died.They saw one childs body lying in a bed with a half ruined Rosary in her left hand.In coming to another house they found a mans corpse n kneeling beside the bed.Also a womans body was found w with two little girls in her arms. Also a man was found with a crucifix in his right hand.

"There is one thing I read"when I look at this, it makes me think of it" said Gre Gertrude."Throughout the whole country, many of the oldest families of our country were entirely wiped out.And three quarters of the people in the devastated city of Abbioann were refugees from the war.O r country had been very hard Hit..And all over there are many women and children so nearly starved, that it is feared that they might die beofore relief comes, and though the wireless dispatches seem to make it certain that flod food for most would come in time it does not yet reach them."

"Yes, and only a few weeks ago"said Violet Pauline"there was great solemnity in the whole country, where there were many thoudands of imposing funeral ceremonies and Masses and prayers for the repose of the numberless souls of the victims of the calamities, who were found.All the Governors of every State of OProvince were present, and the grief manifested by all present was keen. The horror will surely bring bad luck to Glandolinia.Even there were in all surviving cities and towns numerous public meetings held for the purpose of organising armies of which Francis Atlanta and Pandoa were the leading towns. And all stores and business houses had closed for two weeks on account of the disappearance of the city of Abbieann, which was the chief source of supply.It looks as if our nation was crippled."

"And many say that the disaster that brought on such an awful flood was caused by Natural disasters!"Said Jane.

"In what way?"asked Gertrude.

"By strange volcanic phenomena from the ground near Abbieann."

"I don 't believe that" declared Penrod."Some evidence clearly shows that there was no volcanid volcanic activity in the neighborhood of Abbieann.If it can only be proved that Glandelinia was responsible Abbieannia with the help of God would be able to restrain Glandelinia in the making of dis disasters in the near future, but just now theremust be some good reason why no one has tried tovrestrain Glandelinia in other disasters so far up to this time."

"The effects of the disaster, a d and therefore the correct answer con cerning the real nature of the disaster, and its effectmust be told sooner or later"said Dolores."

"But whos going to bring the correct answer!" asked Belle Ruth Mic-Whirther.

"That's easily explained "said Penrod"We cannot do anything to rst restrain Glandelinia properly, because to the world both sides seem involved in the

I think it is terrible."

tremendous mysteries of the disaster, and Abbieannia in wisdom awaits her own due time to find out the real cause of the disaster, and to demonstrate to all nations that with the Help of God that sooner or later her own name will be without just reproach, because just now on the charge of carelessness we too that is the Government of Calverinia too is blamed. If it can be proved That Glandelinia is responsible for this immeasureable disaster, she will be shown a greater enemy to the whole world than Satan may be Himself.Originally the explosions are said to have occured fourty fivemiles north of Abbieann and thirty miles west of Poverty Row and Bon Bon towns, which means that that explosions originated between the two places.Because despite being nearer Bon Bon was not much effected is a mystery.Because of the disasters already known to Glandelinia, the world has known her as the Dragon of the world, and a beast."

"But does the nations of the world suspect her?" asked Angeline Jennings.

"Yes." Said Penrod."There was proof that Glandelinia created the disaster of the Lake Salicia Morro horror.General Curran who was made Emperor Vivians overlord with the power to command many great armies, which he was to to as the Emperor's officer, was the finder of the proofs.Emperor Vivian there fore announced a decree that all men acting suspiciously near levees and dams would suffer the death penalty if convicted.The right to investigate proceeded from Emperor Vivian, and his law announced, that all who could bring proofs of the disasters cause would recievec a gracious reward.This officer was willing to do it for the cause.To accomplish hispurpose"continued Penrod as the whole party was preparing to leave the smoking city"he gathered together a number of the genini.He therefore reasoned that if he, could find out the cause of the horror and Glandelinia could be proven true to its cause, he could turn the whole world away from Glandelinia.

He set about to accomplish hispurpose, and to do this he began to tour the whole territory when the flood had receded in his attempt to prove that Glandelinia was guilty.He reasoned that if Glandelinia did it, and no clues could be found, thatwould then seem to prove Abbieannia a liar against Glandelinia, because then Glandelinia would seem to be wrongfully accused, ,that if Glandelinia was guilty, and Abbieonnia enforced the death penalty uponall found responsible, that without perfect evidence would prove that Abbieannias purpose was imperfect, and that the wisdom of her officials were imperfect, and therefore she could not fight a winning war against her foe. He cond concluded also,that in either event, if Glandelinia is not proven guilty the name of Abbieannia would be reporached for her suspcions, he world to the world would be proven unreliablo, and thereofre all the world would think she was fighting only forpower and not to crush child slavery.

Followingout his god reasoning, this officer and his followers, did the work and though it took him two months he found enough evidence to put Glandelinia to shame before the world."

"And"declured Joy"Emperor Vivian making god his word, passed the decree giving no quarter to all Glandeliniáns who are engineervandals, and the result was that the war against Glandelinia only grew fiercer because of her own wron fu wrongful act.It was after this disaster, that many others followed in succession, and hence by the effects of them all Glandelinia came under condemnation or disapproval before the whole world being responsible for the calamities.Wherefore, as by one disaster, another came into fury, and horrors by calamity, and so death, destruction and horror passed through the whole southern states, for that all have and are still suffering.See even this ruined city, its horrors and the wake of the forest fire.Therefore as by the scenes of this Red Plague, even so by the proofs of the Abbieann horror in the hoped for near future could come the guilt upon Glandelinia."

"Sure"said Mildred Greenburg as they passed a smoking ruin""All the disasters were not in one place, but as if by " inheritance, they came like bedbugs breeding in a pest house, and all such disasters must of necessity be invewtigated.In due course of time the cause of the Plentown horror was proved.Now since this horror just what we are witnessing everybody seems to be suffering and dying since.If Glandelinia is not guilty, who then, was, and is responsible for Abbieann's end for instance, which resulted in such a wholesale/loss of life, as if a nation was swept away.Surely it was not a disaster of nature, because Abbieann is not in any volcanic region.We hope to prove Glandelinia as the one responsible.What do you say Minnie ?"

"I believe Glandelinia did it.She did the others and I'm positive she is the reprehensible and responsible one.If this can be proven, she is a murderer, and ought to be punished as sucy such.Glandelinia then will be looked upon as the Mother of all War disasters."

"This wrongful act of wicked Glandelinia,which resulted in so many awful disasters upon Calverinia and other Abbieannian Southern States, also from what I've read brought reproach upon other Christian nations nearest to us." said Mary Glorinia."Of all the Glandelinians we can suspect for the disasters I believe it was general John Jacken Manley.He may have succeded in compelling to join his conspiracy a great number of his fellow officers; and since last June to this day, the great mass ofour country, because of the flood and fires, are in uj unspeakablemisery,and cut offas it seems fromaid from all other parts of the main country."

"The flood record we so far know of said" Catherine Estrabrook is a picture of a course of horrors only exceeded by that of the Infernal Regions, all this resulting from Glandelinia's act.And her government members denies before the world that what her generals do she is not responsible..No one can put an army big enough to resist the enemy now with all this flood and disaster horror going on as no one from the north can reach the disaster zone..By these disasters it seems as if wicked Glandelinia challenged the whole D Christian world, and also cast re r reproaches upon the nations.Being all powerful Abbieannia could have crushed Glandelinia at the beginning of the great struggle.Had she done so she would have proven her justice, and her power, but at that time she did not its it seems display her wisdom, and she let the war progress sofar that now ther there has been no opportunity to prevent what had occured.Now Abbieannia is forced tobide her own due time to execute the war in the proper way against wicked Glandelinia and at the same time to vindicate her cause, and her name. But powerful as she is she surely needs the help of God..."""

"I should so wonder that if Glandelinia is proven guilty of the disasters that it would not then be Abbieannia's purpose to destroy Glandelinia,....., in due season." said Jane Welford"and to restore all the disaster destroyed as far as is possible."

"Yes"said Angeline Richie"but maybe this fact may be known by Glandelinia and she will be on her guard..Glandelinia can go on and do her worst, and Abbieannia may in her own due time prove to all the world, that her cause is righteous and good, and that her name is beyond junst reproach."

"Why we delay on this matter"said Dolores"maybe the purpose of Abbieannia from the time of the tragedy in Abbieann and the Bengall State, qwas and is to provide all efforts toprevent such disasters in the future, by means of having vast armies on all levee levees, and other important places at any great sacrifice, and then to open a way for her greater armies to move forward against the Glandelinian forces, drive out the Glandelinians, and to make Glandelinia by means of working her pri prisoners restore to Calverinia all that was lost because of the disasters.This course will fully prove that Oh Abbieannia with the help of God can do all she says, and above all she will vindicate her own words and her name before all the nations of the worlddd...."""

"How do you make that out?""""Asked Jack Sanders.

"Time will tell"declared Dolores.Such things at present is beyond the understanding of any one.I might be wrong and I might be right, but what I believe is that Glandelinia may realise she is facing disaster in the war and therefore she went on making these disasters, and gone on in her course of disaster making, and defying all things in her gross wickedness brought on the horrors we all are witnessing now.If precautions had been taken before Abbieannia could have prevented Glandelinia from doing this, but the precautions were not taken, and Glandelinia was allowed to go her limit, with the hope to afford an opportunity to her wicked cause under the most adverse conditions to prove they could win a war wicked as Glandelinia is.All the time however our generals have proven their devotion to their country and God and done their work in the face of the most difficult conditions. I hope God will grant a special blessing of reward.And I hope in due time with all the help of God the country of Calverinia will be lifted out of its most distressing conditions."

"I'm afraid we are going to lose the war though.""said Mildred Maxwell....

"You are"Said Gertrude. "What makes you so hopeless like that?????????"

"Why becausemany spies have proved that Glandelinia has builded a powerful organization, and during the war there have n been been and are three primary elements comprix comprising that organization, to wit, the mobilization alien element, the warring element and the devastating element.These three work together at one time against us under the power and influence of the Glandelinian government, and also Satan probably, the majority of the Glandelinian leaders being wholly strong enough to do all that is feared. All the Glandelinian armies Glandelinia has originated, and carried on in repelling our cause.Glandelinia is now a cruel and evil vine of the earth and it'll take only a miracle to win a war against her..."""""

"But I can't understand how you talk that way Mildred"said Gertrude."Abbieannia the Jews is God's chosen people, and the only prominent element of this nation is that of the Catholic Religion.I b dli believe Mildred you are discouraged, and have no faith from the things you have and do see.Of course Calverinia is r overreached by the Glandelinian disasters, but then nothing good can come out of the disaster."

"... I think it is terrible."

"But so many of our generals are not able to cope with the enemy."Said Mildred.

"That may be true too"said Angeline Jennings.W"without a doubt many of our generals enotered the service with all the good conscience and with a desire to do the country good.B t But because of the subtle and crafty methods methods of the wily glandelinian generals many of them could not withstand the foe and yeilded ground to them.Men claiming to be good generals have been forced to yeild ground and forced to retreat, and be unable to carry on their work in efforts to prevent glandelinia from carrying on her own wicked work.This has gone on to the point where to day, our country is horribly devastated, but even then I do not see where we are on the los ing side.Look what happened at Godernane.Manleys army was wrecked."

"I have read in one paper." "Said Maudelinia Evans"a statement from some Christian international spy that Glandelinia is so wicked that there is not one person who lives a good life.It was the Nakey generals who either caused or ordered the well known wholesale slaughter of so many little children.It was the same class of Glandelinian generals, who caused among prisoners taken in battle a worse horror than the well known French Inquisition, which condemned thousands of innocent men and women and put them to a cruel and unusual death.Glandelinia was thepower that caused or brought on all the wicked and unusual horrors of this dreadful war, and because the visible perpetrators of s o such wrongs got away with it, their course of action has brought great reproach upon the name of Glandelinia, and many nations charged Glandelinia with these terrible crimes of the war as and our nation suspects her of it.But we have no clue yet of the origin of the Abbieann disaster.."

"But could not such a repeat of disaster be prevented in the near future?" Asked Deprega.

"That is hard to tell"broke in Penisa."It was the Officials of Calverinia that recently led the campaign that put in the law, that all remaining river levees, or any spot where the enemy could cause a flood disaster should be guarded by all standing armies, and guarded well.It was Count DeoSaff, who urged the use of any and all means to enforce this or order for the safty of the people , so to avert the repeat of such calamities that have caused so many countless persons tosuffer greater and unusual misery and sorrow, and caused the shotgun and artillery to be invoked in, whereby to prevent such disasters which have already caused the horrible and untimely deaths of unknown numbers of a pool people, which these nearly twelve or more months, from disasterupon disaster.And it was the Glandelinian Government who furnished the sanctimonious screen behind which Glandelinian generals shield themselves while they join in making these disasters.Storms and atural floods, and like natural calamities are not as bad as this flood d s disaster.I'm sure Glandelinia is responsible for the disaster, and Glandelinia I have heard through her hypocritical instruments caused these calamities to be charged up against Our Blessed Lord, saying He did it to try our Faith.Glandelinia d caused the disaster that destroyed Helendale last week.I don't know whether you have heard of it or not.Glandelinia has also broughtupon the Southern Abbieannian States the calamities of fire and other calamities raging now..Glandelinia brought these calamities upon Calverinia and in so doing was o prompted solely by defiance of Him and malic ious wickedness to charge these against God and His Followers and blame us."

"I know it"said Henel."Instead of Our Blessed Lord being responsible for for the calamities, I know from proofs Glandelinia and her generals are respon sible for all of them.If a calamity of frogs camsup and covered the land it would not be anything compared to this.All the plagues sent by God upon Egypt is nothing compared to any of carlightest disasters.It is fools Mildred who said-"There is no victory for us.It is the cowards and the yellow backs who stand up on boxes or outstands, and say to the people"There is no hope for our side winning the war.If Glandelinia was not in danger of defeat, she would not have resorted to this I'm sure.Many have proceeded to tell the people that our side is facing foi defeat nomore than t before the war commenced.It is these men who tell the unfortunate refugees and sorrowing parents that Glandelinia will not lose the war.All such statements are absolutely false, and proceed from those who have no curage or Faith.All these who utter these words may be ignorant of the fact that such a thing is not possible.The proof is conclusive therefore that Glandelinia who is responsible for these disasters is the loser already."

"There are no signs of it." said Mildred.

"Helen laughed.

"No signs eh. What would have happened to Manleys army last month if it was not for the forest fire.!The forest fire saved his army from destruction. After the battle general Vivienia Johnston had expressed his own purpose to destroy the Glandelinian army, but it got away covered by that tremendous do conflagration.The situation is now revealed to every one.Glandelinia is failing.The proof is therefore clear that all disaster and calamities produced by Glandelinia and other calamities that causes the people tosuffer was induced because Glandelinia tried to win that way.Seeing then the real cause we must look for the further proofs, and from the proper source.

They had now left the edge of the ruined and smoking city.

As they were all leaving the ruined city, and the whole troop of boy and girl scouts were forming in line, Jack, Gertrude, and others were still engaged in earnest consultation.

"I don't think he'd allow it." said Harry Andersonia.

W"What do you think, James "asked Gertrude .

"I'd be afraid to go and ask."responded Ja Ja mes,

"Well he"can't more than refuse, and I guess I can stand that."Said Jack. Yes I'm going to take the chances and ask."

"No you don't I8ll ask?" said Gertrude.

And without further ado, Gertrude w rode over tward Angeline Richee, who was directing one of the officers how to deploy the scout troop.

"Well Gertrude"said Angeline,as she caught the anxious eyes of our heroine fixed upon per her."What do you want?"

"If you l please Angeline, I'd like permission to talk a scout trip through a portion of that forest over yonder, with Jack and some of theother boys."

"Certainly Gertrude.But be back in time for supper, as you haven't eaten since breakfast."

"And Angeline"can't Jack Sanders come along with us. "

"He is not on the release list.You know the rule we both made."

"Yes Angeline, but he hasn't had a chance to goout since he has been with us."

"That is not sufficient reason for his going out now."

"But Angeline,yesterday you told me and my o gg officers that you would make it all right with me for showing you how to get the proper things forour camp.Let Jack come along, and I can't ask for anything I'd like more.You know Angeline, we haven't been friendsupto yesterday,and now he is turn ing over a new leaf." and Gertrude gazed at her friend wistfully.

"Gertrude dear" answered Angeline Richee, after a few moments of consider ation,"Please tell Jack Sanders that I'm very glad to have an excuse for let ting him out, and that I hope he'll have the freedom of going manyplaces before we reach Empror Viviens army."

"Thanks very much Gertrude, I know every single word yo said by heart,and and and and I'll tell him exactly as you said it." and saluting Ger re de Gertrude rode away,"

"Say Jack won't you salute when you see me coming?" Gertrude inquired of that young gentleman, whom she found wittling apiece of wood with his knife. The boy closed his knife very promptly, and saluted with silent enthusinsm.

"Howdo you like to take w walk, Jack,with me and the other boys?"

"I would like to walk with anyone.2 came thr rough answer."But I'm not allowed to go out anywhere for a week fordousing Miss Turner w th water from the paddle that day." and Jack went on to express his injured feelings in a manner too realistic for writing.

"You needn't swear about it anyhow." interrupted Gertrude,"And besides both I and Angeline Richee have given you permission."

Jack opened his eyes.

"What?" he gasped.

Then Gerttude repeated Angelines message.

Accordingly Gertrude and the six boys were soon outside the ruined city.It was a gloomy afternoon.As stated when they entered the ruinedcity the morn ing had approached with thick masses of clouds high in the sky rolling up from the distant blase blazes.With the progress of the day, they had been accumulati accumulating, and spreading westward, gro growing thicker and blacker in their advance overhead till nearly l all of the sky over the flooded dis tricts was now veiled from the eye.

"There's lots of distant fires making those clouds." added Tmo Thomas."It looks as if though the fire is moving tward the other forests they haven't touched yet."

"So it does"assented Dan.

"I ain 't afraid of forest fires." said Jack.

"There's nothing wonderful about that"commented Gertrude."What would you be afraid for.It's not yet coming this way."

"Lots of people get scared, when they hear the noise of the fire hur ricane." explained Jack,"But I don't mind it one bit."

"I do "said James."When the wind begins I do my best to run for a clear ing or a ravine."

"That is because you are afraid?" said Goerge loftily."I don't fear fighting a forest fire or nithing."

"In other words"remarkd Francis,vwith a solemn roll of his eyes;"You are not afraid of anything.One thinkg thing about you Jack for facts you are too gu gosh darn reckless."

"Well that may be but I can't help it.But you see I'm still alive."

"You sure are reckless, that's sure." put in Gertrude in a mat ter of fact tone."All the same,Jackie, I'd rather think you'd be scared if you knew you had the guilt of a mo rtal sin on your soul."

"I don't thknow about that?" answered Jack."How about the Glandelinians whodie in battle.They don't expect to go to heaven anyhow."

"They don't.I know it."

think it is terrible."

"And "continued Jack"I'm with Mildred Maxwell."I don't expect to see our w side win the war neither."

."You don't."

„No.Nany say we should have given up and gone home long ago."

"At least you might try and Make a Nine Days Novena for the sake of our cause that our Army Chaplain Father Nolson talked to us about, this morning at Mass...."""Suggested Gertrude.

Jack stared at her h a heavily.

"We said you know"continued Gertrude,"That there is a promise from Our Blessed Lord that those who have faith and Confidence in Him will never find their prayers unanswered."

"I made the Nine Fridays just recently offering it for that intention, and where are we no?" almost sneered Jack."

"Stalled by the flood"suggested James sheepishly."

"There you are.What good is there offering a Novena."

"Just think"aded Harry Andersonia,"To morrows the First Friday in August. Make the start of the Novena on your Frist Friday, it won't hurt you to try. Surely a Daily Communicant is not losing faith."

"I'm afraid I am" answered Jack."And I guess I'll not begin no Novena"and he proceeded to eat some candy Gertrude had given him."

"One set of prayers don't always work." Gertrude observed."Last year I prayed for something very worthy and special for Ten months, making Novenas, having priests say Mass for the In tention, and offering up Rosaries and Saying all Litanies, and now I got what I wanted."

"Yes indeed" put in James.

"And it would do you and the county any amount of good"added Francis."Come on Jack, be a sport you sneaked out of going on guard duty last week.You needn't stare, I and Gertrude had our eyes open, and I saw you dodging.It's my opinion you've been dodging most of your novena prayers ever since you came with us, because you are losing courage and faith.I 'll bet that is the cause of your carelessness."

"Say you didn't tell on me, did you!!!"

„No one did yet..."" Answered Gertrude, diplomatically- -she had never entertained the idea of reporting Jack to her aurthorities"and I won't mention it either.Now you'll go to morrow and start the Novena.Novena for the success of our cause, and try to make Mildred more encouraged, won't you?"

There was a short silence.

"Yes"answered Jack at length, and speaking with an effort;;;;"I'll go."

Making their way through a fringe of fairly unburned woods which girded the edge of the flood, they presently arived at a clearing upon the bank.

"Isn't it growing dark, and hot awfully fast!"exclaimed Harry.

"Just look at those walls of smoke clouds, they are beginning to rise and advance forward faster and faster, and they're coming our way too." Gertrude cried.

"Let's run back to the Orphan Asylum "suggested Jack.

Borne on the wings of the fire hurricane, the dark masses in the east were advancing gloomily, rapidly like a marshalled army.The wind which carried them on could be faintly heard, breaking up the dread silence which had come over the scene roundabout them as the ticking of a watch at midnight upon a nerve shattered invalid.And they could see flame piercing the smoke.Fascinated by the sweep of rolling clouds, and the way they rose in ernormous billows and cauliflower or mushroom rools and shapes, they stood the girl, and boy girlscouts, with their eyes, firstlifted tward the heavens,and then tward the direction of the smoke risingupwards.

"Goodnight."

This exclamanation which seemed to break from all simultaneously was evoked by a sudden change in the strange upward and forward moving panorama.For t as they stood gazing, there rolled upward from the horizon a thick reddish colored cloud, and there came a noise like a volcano blowing up."

"What is that"o'd cried Jack.

"I don't know I'm sure" answered Gertrude,"I never saw anything like that in forest fires before.Maybe something explo i explosive caught fire and blue up.Anyhow the fire hurricane will be on us in a minute.Just look how its rushing tward us.It's too late to start for the Home, and we couldn't outrun it by that means.Where'll we go!"

And as they set about answering this question, the clouds rolling up along the ground came nearer and nearer. The tist The whistling of the wind that one moment before had seemed to emphasize the silence had risen to an angry scream and flames were already seen in the far distance piercing the smoke. The sixlads and Gertrude, wavering and irresolute not knowing whether they should go for safty, presen ted a striking tableau; as they paused there in the open.Gertrude stood with her legs apart and firmly braced.Her hands were clasped behind her back, and with her girlscout hat tilted so as to show a shock of thick golden hair over her forehead, and her mouth pursed as though she were about to whistle, she raised her eyes in an unblinking gaze at the angry flames now shooting almost across the sky but high up, but throwing a great hat.

Next him was Francis somewhat pale,, silent with an awe stricken look upon his pale face.He had put his arm through gertrudes, and clung to our heroine as a drunken man or a drowning man to a plank.Gertrude was Francis's heroine. Jack Sanders was on the other side of Gertrude the usual grin still lingering upon his face,and his hands thrust deep into his pockets.But he glanced over and over from smoke clouds to companions, from companions to the smoke.He knew what was coming while the wind keeping time with the moving of the fire storm sent the t rr trees ahead of them vowing and swaying in a weird dance, all themore weird for the unatural darkness, that had fallen upon all nature.

"Had we not better run!" asked Gertrude.

"Yes"said Francis, eagerly"Come on."

"I'm afraid I can't run." said James."I feel weak and dizzy, and I'm afraid its the heat."

"Mary and John go ahead." said Gertrude."I'll stay with Francis and you can bring help."

"No you don't Gertrude,"said Jack."If you stay we all stay."

"Come on, you boys"implored Francis Green, the other boy"They can look out for themselves and we can bring aid."

"Go on yourself." said Francis."You can take care of yourself."

"But I don't want to go if you don't."

"Then stay here"came the answer.

"Halloa"cried a voice"Why you are smart scouts for your age, you've chosen about the saftest lop place around here."And Schoefield Penrod, out of breath with running emerged from the woods, and l placed himself beside Jack.

"We came near running away." said Gertrude."We thought we could run through the woods, and find some ravine untill the fire swept past and on.We are mighty glad to see you Penrod."

"It's lucky you stayed here.If the wind gets any worse, and the fire comes up, the woods will be a dangerous place--flaming seas of branchs, branches, wind and allthat."

During this conversatio conversation, short as it was head and wind and the swirling fog of smoke had grown worse.

"Ugh,we'll be smothered in all this smoke." said Gertrude."Why "She added Francis is sick, overher overcome by heat."

Francis had f pillowed his face on Gertrudes bosom, and before the exclamant ion was wellout of Gertrudes mouth, the poor child scout had fainted.

"Here give me the boy"shouted Penrod shouting had now become necessary, as the ordinary tone of conversation"I'll fix him in a trice.All of you go into the water or you'll be parched when the fla mes come near."And Penrod as he spoke, took Francis in his arms, carried him to a soft bit of earth, and depositing him gently threw open his collar.

"Halloa, Jack, what's the matter"bawled Gertrude, attracted by the strange motion of the boy.

"A girlscout running through those flaming woods.I can't stand here and let her face the peril." came the answer.

Penrod raised his face.

"Stay where you are.2 he said sternly"If you want to die young, run through those flaming woods.I'll send Frank after her."

As he deceased s s ceased speaking there came a dazzling flash somewhere near followed almost instantly by a sound like a terrific clap of thunder.With a wild cry to the girl in the woods, Jack pashed in that direction.

"Stop him Gertrude, boys." cried Penrod, jumping to his feet."He's lost his wits.I'm sure the girl can save herself."

Penrod though many yards in the rear of both, had set forward in hot per suit.As for Gertrude herself she scarcely needed Penrods bidding.Jack had not fairly made a start, when Gertrude was at his heels.Anxiety for some one elses safty, they say, leds speed.But Jack seemed to be an ex exception to this as to many other rules.He slipped and tripped several sev ral times, and once was within a little of l s losing his balance and falling to the earth.Indeed it seemed as though Gertrude, who was running at her best, would catch him before he reached the girl and the woods.But as Jack drew nearer the edangerous shelter ,he gained something of his customary speed, and Gertrude who had thus far gained upon him, began to lose his advantage, Penrod meanwhile was lessening the distance between himself and Gertrude Angeline at every step.At length Jack in passing a tree, that stood like a guard, at the edge of the main body of the woods, s tri pped on a root, and before he could wall recover himself, Gertrude had come within five feet of him .But now Jack had the lead yet of all, and was acv a t actually upon the girl, and then just as the thoroughly frantic and frightened girl broke into a more regular speed, Jack sprang into the air, alighted on the girls back, and bore her to the ground just as a great stretch of trees only a few yards away flared into a roaring billowing sheet of flame. And while they were still rolling upon the heathened earth, there was a sharp crack, like the report of a cannon discharged at ones ear, a strange crackling and swishing sound, a crash as of many branches beating against each other,and twenty feet before them there came crashing to the earth a giant pine tree all aflame.As it fell a burning twig struck Gertrude in the face.

In an instant instant, though dazed and bewildered, Jack had sprung to her his feet.But the girl rose only her to her knees, she was q i quivering with fear and heat her breast.

"Spare, me please Oh Lord, Spare me "she cried."

"Get up girl will you!" bawled Jack his voice rising high above the noises of the fire elements, as he caught the girl by the shoulders, and dragged her to her feet."If you don't move away from here, you will not have a chance to get spared." and without further words, Jack dragged her back to the open as the full forest blazed up.Gertrude followed quietly, even her face it must be said, had paled a trifle/ And there they stood as motionless as statues, silent and awed for fully three minutes, there they stood till in the swiftness of its might the fire hurricane and flown by them, till the flames in the forest were now rising straight up, and the storm of wind had ceased in its violence with th the suddeness of its coming.

"Well we've been under fires and its blown over,and all is well." said Penrod.

"I guess we had better run for the home, Penrod"put in Gertrude"and change our uniforms as we are all wet and dirty.What'ts the matter girl?" to the one Jack had saved."

She pointed a quivering finger at the eastern or extreme northeastern sky."

"The fire is coming back.These clouds are changing direction."

"I guess we can beat the flames." answe answered Gertrude."Penrod I'm awful glad you ca me.We would have lostour heads if it hadn't been for you.How did you come to be around."

"I was investigating the new course of the conflagration with Dolores, and we got seperated, you can rely upon it our whole force and Dolores is safe in the orphan asylum buildings by this time.Now boys and you two girl friends of ours for a run home.Are you all right Francis."

"Yes Penrod." said Francis, who had risen to his feet while the race between Jack and the girl had been going on,"But I'm afraid I can't run very fast."

"Here put your arm through mine." said Penrod.

"And your other arm through mine." addad Gertrude whose color had fully returned.

In a very short time indeed, they were changing their uniforms and other garments in their respective dormitiries.Jack uttered not a word untill he was about to leave his room.Then the girl cming in said;

"Jack if you had not jumped on my back, and pulled me over, I've had that burning tree fall on top of me."

"Yes "replied Jack, adjusting his tie with more than wonted precision," and if I hadn't tu b tumbled over with you, I'd have been killed by it too or burned.I was scared that time I can tell you.But of course you were not scared, you were foolish."

"Scared, I should think I was."

"I'll do something for you in turn some day"she said, and she left the dormortory, and went straight to the chapel.

"Well Jack"began Gertrude coming in to see him for a moment or two"do you feel shaken from your trying rescue work."

"A little Gertrude. A falling tree afire is no joke.Did you hear what the girl said just after the hot wind died down!"

"What did she say!"

"She said it was coming this way."

"Oh well, you know she was most scaredout of her wits by the fire."

"Gertrude it's coming here, I know it is."

"Nonsense."

"Well I feel as though something were about to happen.Won't you please pray for our cause with me."

And Jack caught Gertrudes hand and gazed into her sweet face with a sweet pathos inexpressibly touching.A beautiful face also it was that met our Heroines none the less beautiful for the modesty which nearly every minute of the day veiled the eyes, and sent the blood purpling the pale cheeks.Now however Jacks eyes were wide open and fixed oh so appealingly, upon Gertrudes.And Gertrude as she returned the gaze was impressed with something which she could not define but which brought home to her for the first time that she indeed was in the presence of a boy of exto extraordinary holiness, bravery and purity.

"Why of course I'll pray for you and with you, if you want me to..hat' swhats up.!"

"To morrow , Gertrude I'll start the Novena with the First Nine Fridays of this year and offer it for the success ofour country in its cause.."

"Well I don't see what you want any praying for.I need it bad."

"Yes gertrude.You know how to do things."

Poor Jack looked as though he would say more but words failed him.He again caught his friends hand, pressed it, then Gertrude hurried away.When she reqreached her dormitory she continued sitting on her bed for some moments longer.

"I didn't know that poor Jack Sanders." she soliloquized as she rose."I though He was a careless boyscout but he's a mighty good careless boy anyhow."

And with a grin on her face she proceeded to take off her shoe.

CHAPTER TENTH.

THE FIRE THREATENS THE HOUR..
AN ADVENTURE AT MIDNIGHT.
GERTRUDE ANGELINEAND HER COMPANIONS HEAR HEART REND ING STORIES FROM SURVIVORS WHEN THEY TO FIND.
MORE CONVERSATION ON CHANGELINGS.

It was about nine o clock that night, and though so late in the season it being August it was much hotter and more oppressive than it even should have been for the Month of August anywhere.There was no stars that night, and in the east hung a thick black cloud, as thick as an ominous thundercloud observed in the distance at night or late evening, and it was pierced underneath by a ter rific red glow.There was a strange hush over the dormitory.The feeble light of the lamp at the entrance was utterly inmaffident to liken the faces of the slumberers lying beneath the Cupola, and so it would have been difficult for any one to perceive, that Gertrude Angeline whose bed was directly beneath the cupola was wide awake.And so were it was , that she wondered how the rest could sleep, for the heat kept her awake, it tortured her.With the single ex ception of a previous adventurious night in the flaming woods nothing like this had ever happened before.To her left lay Jessie Turner, beyond her Angeline Jennings, and last of the two Angeline Nichols. These five were grouped under and about the cupola.The other occupants were at the further end of the room, operated from this rest of five by the spaceof some thirty odd feet.It will be convenient for all the readers to keep these details in mind.

Gertrude as it was said before was wide awake.Also there was probably a sense of novelty rallowalling her to the situation, for she lay very quietthe subdued breathing of the sleepers, alone broke the stillness, without there was not the slightest breeze blowing and no cry of man or beast to break now the brooding calm of the night.For fully an hour, Gertrude from their different voices of breathing endeavored to place her various sleepers.She easily placed but Dolores Costello' s,and with more difficulty Amy Lane Angeline Nichols'.At this this point she grew very weary of this new study, and cas cast about in her thoughts for some fresh diversion.It was hard upon ten oclock, when she rem membed stories, go to a window and look if she could see any sign a storm was As she was sitting upon the bed first deciding whether she should goto the she hoped the sky would be free of smoke.Oh how she wished it would waith window or not, A silvery, sweet voice, with a sacred pathos in every tone, broke or rather glorified the silence.

"My Jesus, have mercy uponmSalvevimis."

The invocation came from little Joan Sanders.

Gertrude bent down, and gazed into the drowsers face, even with the feeble light, he she could perceive lines of tore terror the incident, afterwards, surprised Gertrude herself was in unusually, and lightly patted the upturned cheek,and forwith the face grew strangely calm, a child, tender, yet so feeble that the facial muscles scarcely changed passed over it,and from the lips came the whispered.....A

"Sweet Heart of Jesus I know you will aid in restoring Calverinin.Please be my love."

With her hand still resting on thelittle sleepers cheek, Gertrude stooded as i gazingupon the radiant face in mute admiration.

"Amen", she chiperred softly to herself."I hope I will talk like that in my sleep some time."

She removed her hand.Joan opened her eyes.....

"That all right Joan,"explained Gertrude, bending low so as to whisper into her ear."You have been talking in your sleep, and I just passed my hand over your cheek.Go to sleep again.Good night." and she held our her hand.

"Good night Gertrude." and little Joan drew ar hand from the coverlet, to clasp Gertrudes, displaying as she did so, her rosary twined about the fragile wrist.Then very softly Joan fell into a calm slumber.Looking on such a face, it is hard to imagine that the world was full of horror and war.Gertrude waited till she felt sure that Joan was sound asleep.Then shemurmured to herself;

"I guess I'll see if there are any stars now.....

Walking ever on tiptoe to one of the eastern windows, she looked out.She saw no stars that night.For the dismal black cloud to reddened underneath, see med to be in forward motion, advancing continually, swiftly swiftly in a direct line tward the girlscout standing in her girls night shirt at the window.

"Phew"whistled Gertrude."Jack and others were right after all.It's coming this way."

Even as she spoke, the awful whisper of the approaching fire storm could be heard, a whisper that lasted but a moment, when it changed to a roar, deepened into a groan, which grew louder, more violent, more threat... ening every second while the red glow neared and grew brighter...

"Oh I think it is terrible."

"It's getting very hot too." murmured Gertrude to herself."I guess I'll dress and see what is going to happen."

And very quickly indeed she was fully dressed---, everything save her tie and shoes,,-----and with her usual calmness, returned to the window, to watch and wait upon the turn of events.The patter of some falling object upon the roof could be distinctly heard at that moment, while far off from the east, came the muffled thunder of some distant explosion.In attempting to take another look from the window, Gertrude happened to touch a elctric socket.

"Heavens"she muttered, withdrawing her hand very quickly, but not frightened.A queer feeling had had passed through her body..She knew she had recieved a shock from electricity.The beating of flying stones, while Gertrude was still pondering, became louder and louder, and the girls began to love uneasily in their beds, many indeed were now half awak.The wind too was howling about the house in a fury of power and rage, a perfect hurricane. Gertrude had just reached her bed , when a loud banging noise brought everyone in the room from the deep land of sleep, and a gust of dust and smoke came swooping in, bringing with it great heat waves.An that neglected bolt.The door of the house cupola had flown open, and was now flapping noisly against the lightning rod. As with a very noisy recurrance it opened and shut, Gertrude caught a glimpse of the flames on the eastern horizon, and almost directly overhead that black sinister cloud of smoke hanging like a curse over St Gertrudes Orphan Asylum Even while she was taking in this strange aspect of the heavens, and the distant flames, smoke camepouring in .Jennie Turmer, the two Jennings, and allof them with appled faces had grouped themselves beside Gertrude.No wonder they were alarmed, the frightful banging of the do,c coupled with the fierce windstorm, and the smoke and heat coming in was an overtax on the nerves of the boldest boldest.

"OhGertrude"chattered one of them"I'm glad we all went to Holy Communion this morning.."

"So am I"answered Gertrude."Say girls I'm going to shut that door, even if I do get a gust of stones and dirt.Goodby."and she made a dash at the ladder.

Unmindful of the dust and s moke which almost blinded her, she succeeded at length in securing a hold on the door.But pull and tug as she w might, the wind now at its height, held its own, till at last in a sudden lulo, the door finally yeilded to her greatest efforts.

"Now if I only can get my hands on that bolt"She started to say theprayer o OH Mary Concieved without Sin Pray for us whohave recouse to thee, and had hardly finished the third time, when the wind in a sudden unexpected rise sent the door flying from her grasp.There was at that moment a sharp clanging sound, and the dull noise of some heavy object beating upon the roof and as the door torn from its hinges, pulld the lightning rod down from the cupola, Gertrude lost her balance,and was thrown backwards from her perch.Happily for herself, she was flung upon her bed, whence she rolled to the floor.On that occassion, Gertrude was far from being stunned, and she was unusally awake to every impression.Her senses had become sharpened, and as she rose to her feet, she took in the whole scene.At the other end of the dormitory stood huddled together,all the boys save Jennie Turmer the two Jennings girls and Jane.Penrod was just advancing from the group tward them. Gertrude could see all this, for the single simple reason that Penrod had just entered with a lamp that lighted the whole room. Upon the face of Jean there still dwelt that sweet expression, brought from dreamland, but softened now and beautified in a new way by concern for Gertrudes safty. Dolores face had strangely changed.Awe and pity,---awe at the fire storm,pity for Gertrude had touched it into refinement.All this nevertheless just than Gertrude did not take any notice of.

"You are not hurt Gertrude are you!" inqui red Dolores earnestly.

"Not a bit."

"Thank God"murmured Jean.

"I'm glad we all went this morning." Said Dolores.

"Gertrude"said Angeline"we'll help you pull your bed away or it'll be covered with dust."

"Oh its no use getting dust covered the way I am."

"We don't mind that"said Helen, and she and five of the other girlscout privates, and an officer sprang forward tward Gertrudes bed.

They had only taken a few step stops when there came a terrible gust of wind.The ceiling f fell from the shock, and Gertrude fell violently to the floor, pillowed upon the body of some one who had fallen before her, there she lay motionless motionless, yet not senseless and with a feeling as if she had been parbolled lay there gazing upon into a sky not suddenly brilliant with a fire glow. The fire was passing close but not touching the home.As she fell Penrod's lamp had gone out, and in the glare of the distant fire which penetrated the room through the windows he has seen ten girls standing under the cupo & go ol plunging forward violently to the floor, while the s mell as if turpentine burning pervaded the whole apartment. Then almost simult aneously simultaneously indeed came a deafening noise but distant.To Penrod it sounded like the explosion of a powder magazine at his side.He knew it

was an explosion somewhere, and it was the own concussion of it that had stricken down the girlscouts by flying wreckage from the walls and ceiling before his eyes, and in the dread hush and darkness that followed, Penrods voice clear and firm filled the room with the words of sacramental absolution as, raising his hand and making the sign of the cross, He said;

"Ego vos absolvo apeccatis vestris in nomine Patris, et Filii et Spiritus Sancti.Amen."

Another girlscout had in the meantime relighted the dormitory lamp-(which had also gone out in the shock of the falling materials from the ceiling, and [illegible] standing beside her superior.

"Every one of you girls" continued Penrod, who in the dim light percieved a number of moving faces"take your clothes uon your arm, and leave this room quietly one by one.Go to the [illegible] Infirmary, the fire storm has passed us to the left,and there's not the least danger."

On occasions such as this the panic does not immediately follow the catastrophe. [illegible] Between the two there is always the lull---the time when the imagination of each is charging itself with the realization of what has happened and what is n passed,with the picturing of what may come.That done the panic takes its course.Penrod had taken the right time for speaking.Had that famous boyscout leader lost his head for a single moment, there would have ensued, in all probability, a frightful scene.But his calmness gained the mastery over all.Quietly noiselessly with pitiful half scared faces, the girlscouts passed down the stairs.How eagerly he counted them.It was the most trying period of his own long career in the army as scout.Sixty passed.Thirty three more.Two hundred more.The last was the officers.Then there was silence.His senses then had not deceived him. Ten had been struck down by the falling materials of the ceiling.He had relighted his lamp,and now hastened to the other end.

Gertrude, his eyes closed her eyes closed, lay with his head pillow ed upon a girlscouts hea body, near him oth her others so quiet.Beyond was Angeline Riches, breathing h a heavily with an ugly gash upon her face.Dolores was in a sitting posture, murmuring inchoerent words.

"Gertrude, Gertrude,"cried Penrod, stooping down and catching the girls hand.The eyes opened.

"Yes Penrod, I'm all right;what's happened.?"

Penrod made a slight gestu re, and bent over the others [illegible] .He listened for the breath that would never return.He moved over to Helen, and a stifled sob burst from his bosom.Six of the girls ah had been instantly killed , had never heard the crash of the explosion, had been called suddenly before God. Gertrudes standingposture had saved her.And heavier materials had not strick her.A beam however by merely passing bore her to the floor but not in juring her.But she did not know at the moment that she had narrowly escaped the jaws of death, for not one of those now remaining in the dormitory, save the boyscout leader was aware that the building even itself was afire on the left wing.

"Dolores are you hurt?"

Gertrude was bending over Dolores Mic-Hollyster Jennin hgs, But there came no answer. Penrod touched Gett Gertrude lightly on the shoulder.

"Gertrude"he said,"Can I trust you to keep cool."

"Yes Penrod, if you just tell me what's happened.There was a queer feeling went through me just now, and somthing seemed to hit me on the head, and I saw stars."

The house has been hit by the conflagration; and with the concussion of a distant explosion something fell on you and knocked you down.Dolores was hit by the beam, and ten others are seriously injured maybe dead.You and Jean might remove Angeline Riches and Dolores to those beds over there, but don't tell them when they come to, what has happened to the ten others,and be sure not to show them a long face , or you'll frighten them."

"Catch hold of her head J ean"said Gertrude.

With tender care,they conveyed poor Dolores to the nearest bed.Then Angeline too was brought over, while Penrod still cherishing a faint hope in his heart, eagerly sought to discover some signs of life in the ten others.Both Angeline and Dolores shortly after being placed upon the beds gave signs of conscious ness.

"Hallee Dolores"cried Gertrude, forcing a smile.

"Gertrude." Angeline herself gave a gasp.

"Yes it is me, and you are all right Angeline."

"Why- wh---what has happened!!!!!!!!!"

" The fires got lose or something"replied our ingenious girl here"And spilled itself on topof the home.They let you have fire at the fairgrounds for two cents a head."

But even this comic view of the situation failed to win a smile from either Angeline or Dolores.

[illegible] abors; sadly

[illegible] and I think it is terrible."

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"Where is my left arm" she gasped.

"You still retain your two arms."

"No my left arm is gone."

Gertrude therefore caught the left arm and lifted it into fullview.

"How do you see it."

"But it doesn't feel like its there."

"Well catch hold of it, then, it surely will not come off.You have me an awful volley with it just a moment ago."

"I'm choking"Continued Dolores.

"If you were you couldn't speak."

"But I am not able to swallow.Oh."And Dolores looked more and more frightened.

"But I didn't ask you to swallow.Besides it isn't breakfast time yet,and there is nothing toeat in this dormitory anyhow Dolores."

One of the Regimental doctors, who had guessed at the beginning of this conversation, and who having satisfied himself that ten of the girlscouts were dead, had now come to Dolores's aide, here broke in.

"Gertrude, We want one of the highest doctors at once.Run downstairs to the room on the next floor where the cavalry sleeps.The majority of them are putting on their uniforms now to come up here and lend us help.Take the flash one you meet, or the one that is nearest dressed, and tell him to hurry off after th to the best doctor, we want him for Dolores and Miss Nichos."

Gertrude did not wait for any second bidding, but started off at once followed by Jean. Luckily they met two cavalry men who were just coming coming up the slope and as the clock struck twelve, Gertrude delivered her message.

"I'll have the doctor here from the camp within ten minutes." said the soldier, turning about at once.

"I'm coming along do George"said Gertrude."

"No you had better go to sleep."

"I couldn't sleep now sir.I'm coming with you understand."This was a command.

The soldier made no answer, and Gertrude followed after him.As a matter of course Jean clung to her leader. On be out of doors, they saw every thing at once to the left of them, but they took the chances of speeding through a flaming glen, and took the high road leading to where they had left the raft and their mates.Suddenly their course was arrested, for a most unprecedented thing had come to pass.There was an insignificant creek flowing past the house and down to the river the river should be but was now obliterated by the flood.Ordinarily it was very shallow, but the flood had burst its bounds in that locality and had caused the creek to swell into a muddy torrent.Worse of all there was no sign of the bridge.

The flood had swept the bridge away." cried Gertrude.

"I can't swim a stroke"said the soldier." I guess I'll have to go to the of the houses on this side on that hillslope and get help."

Scarcely had he turned his back upon them, when Gertrudepulled off her shoes stockings and sailor shirt, and her uniform coat.

"What are you going to do Miss Armsburg ."

"Didn't you hear the soldier sai say he cannot swim.I am a good swimmer and can certainly swim that far."

"Oh but Gertrude it is an awful current.You'll be carried down to the river that flows into that soothing forest fre over there."

Gertrude gazed at the swirling stream growing momentarily worse, apparently being some fifty or sixty feet wide moving in all the speed of a fury of a torrent at her feet.

"I'll bet anything I won't she said presently."Anyhow I'M willing to take the risk for Dolores and Angeline Nichos.I've good my scapulars.I'd better start higher up so as to land about here on the other side."

Then Gertrude ran some distance up the stream.

"No Jean sodbye.Shake hands.It's a risk you know.If anything happen to you sent word to Violet and her sisters, that I did it tosave my comrades."

Gertrude was decidedly of the opinion that this bit of information would make up for anything that might occur.So somewhat serious, yet light and bold at heart, she slipped into the water.It was very warm, almost hot. She took one step forward, and found herself up to her waist, another step and then suddenly caught by the current, she was whirled down stream like a small piece of wood, but she struck out vigorously for the shore.Vigorious as were her strokes, however,she felt almost at once that she would in any event be carried far down stream before reaching the other shore.For all that she struck out bravely beating the water with over hand stroke.

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Gertrude at this period of her life a"human fish"" that means a very expert swimmer.She had often even when five years did attended attended a swimming school and had succeeded in swimming even through ro rough waves, and to do every stroke under water and above the surface, and to float on her back.She fortunately knew plenty of swimming with current, and in consequence did not expend her strength.However all would have been much better if it was not for the unforseen.The current rushing on from the flood bore with it much of the debris from the flood and therefore she had to battle her way through this also, and therefore before she had gone three quarters of the distance she was quite worn out, and slightlybruished on the forehead where a large piece of wood had struck her.But her presence of mind did not desert her.She could have made it easily nevertheless, but this trouble shewas facing would delay her longer than she desired. And time was precious for the two other injured girlscout leaders .Murmuring the prayer "Oh Mary Conceived without Sin. pray for us who Have Recourse to Three, for all that time she was in the water,, she had turned over on her back to rest herself, and also moving her feet gently, she suffered herself to becarried along.She had not drifted far, when her body came in d contact with a large floating door.She felt onto this while still doing her best floating untill the door became jammed against something.Swimming off from the raft she secured aviold on what stopped the raft with her hands.

"Hurray"she shouted to those on shore who had gathered to watch her."I'm all right."

"What did you reach!" some one called.

"It must be a railing of some bridge or a jam under water.Whatever it is it is not even two feet under water."

Gertrude clung to this, and finally made her way hand over hand, as to were to the opposite shores She soon found her self on the opposite shore, and the military doctor was not at all surprised, when he opened his front door of his headquarters about two minutes later upon a girlscout leader he well knew arrayed in the simplicity of a nightgown and stockings and shd. soaked to the skin, who was batteringe away at his door with a log of wood, as though she would burst it open.

"Oh doctor my headquarters,where we house the girl and horsecats had been shaken badly by an explosion somewhere.Three girlscouts are badly hurt, and ten I'm afraid are gone.We need you there right away.Come quick."

"Jack"hailed the doctor to the aide-de-camp"saddle my horse at once.Come Gertrude, you'll need a doctor too if you don't look out.How did you wet yourself.It ain't raining.?"

"I couldn't find no bridge in the creek sir, and I tried to swim horses.I found it then or I believe I'd be swimming the river by this time through the fire.But let's hurry Doctor.We have no time.I tell you ten are even dead."

Miss Glorinia, who had caught these words, now came forward, and kissing her friend Gertrude in true sisterly style-------an action, which Gertrude in her state of excitement and ex anxiety for the safty of the three others took no notice of-drew off her wet night gown and threw a uniform cloak about her.

"That's just the thing Mary." put in Doctor Jones."Now Get Gertrude a small glass of brandy, while I put y her to to bed."

"But I say""cried Gertrude,"Wouldn't bother about me, I'll go to be myself. Never mind me think of the other three for heavens sake.They need you I don't."

The doctor took head knowing Gertrudes asperity, and she went into his own sleeping room, and took off her clothes while Mary proceeded to rub her down vigoriously.

"Ouch"cried Gertrude suddenly."

"Why Gertrude"said Mary alarmed; your injured."

As the doctor was preparing to go ,Mary was gazing at a spot on Gertrudes right arm about the form and size of the human heart, a bruise of some kind and painful.

"I thought there was something the matter when I pulled off the stocking, "There where a beam in the flood struck me."

"Is the river fullof debris too?"

"I'll say it is, and the creek too.That injury isn't much.You ought to see the three others.Oh God I hope they pull through."

"It's good its no more"said Mary, and she opened a medicine chest as the doctor left,and applied an i ointment to the spot, bandaged it, and had Gertrude wrapped in her own bed before another girl entered the room with a glass of brandy.

"Now Gertrude"said Mary "since you are a patient for a time you are now under my orders.You stay in bed till ten o'clock to morrow.By keeping quiet you'll escape the consequences of over excitement and over exertion. We don't want to lose you too.You understand."

I'm willing, but I can't sleep."

"I'll see that you can then.John, if Gertrude can't get to sleep in ten few minutes give her a teaspoo teaspoon of this."

The doctor in the meantime aided by the direction of those on shore, easily

don't think it is terrible."

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found found some ja n to cross without mishap, and made the building in a few minutes and found many soldiers hard at workputtingout a fire in one of the wings, and evidently being successful at that.The ten other girlsacuite gave his No trouble they were far beyond a doctors skill---had been from the moment the had been st struck down by the bigbeam from the ceiling. But for the rest of the night he was busy nursing and warming and rubbing the other three girls bring ing their legs and arms back to life. Gertrude in the meantime under the influence of a opiate slept a dreamless sleep way past eleven oclock the next morning, watched over with loving care by her friend Mary Clorinima.

However the readermust know that no greatest disaster either in the history of the world or written in fiction or fairy tales and so forth is more re- replete with thrilling and horrible experiences and miraculous escapes than that of this horrible forest fire terror known as "Calverinia's Red Plague." The soldiers who acted as escorts for the girl and boyscout columns had by this time through hard efforts brought home to the camp and to the Garrisoned Orphan Asylums a number of survivors of the fire, and every survivor had a story to tell whether true or conflicting, for each one claimed he had an experience,such as come to us every once in only a life time. But of all the personal experiences and narratives of that most fr: frightful series of days, when the "Red Plague" turned a scene of Calverinia Paradise beauty into a ghastly field of death and a seething hell, there were none among the rescued who were able to describe the tragedy so accurately and in such detail as that of a resident of the burned city of St Francis itself.It was the only story p of personal observation within the city of St Francis on that frightful mornin g, and he was a man whose name was Monmton Hardrude the only living thing in the ill fated city that did not perish among thesevne did and escape in time-- the sole survivor of St Francis.He was a president of a banks.

This man was a native of Calverinia, though born in Abbiesnnia.He spoke Abbiesnnian fluently--as do all the Calverinians.He was in bed in the ground floor of his home when the disaster occured. He said he had been ill with a fever the night before the conflagration struck, the fever no doubt brought on by the heat, and to that fact he can declare the reason why he was and is still alive.

Therefore was the reason he spent the night in the ground floor of the build ing where he might have some hope of allaying the burning of the fever on the cold tile floor.He was still in bed when the end came for everybody in St Francis who did not have the chance to escape on time. He was brought to Gertrude Gertrude who was lying in Mary Clorinias bed in the camp about an hour after she had arisen and was trying to eat some dinner.

"When did the fire str strike the city of St Francis"she asked of him.

"It was very early in the morning about five o'clock that it happened." he said"I had been lying on the bed on the ground floor.The heat was terrific and it had grown worse during the night, and that morning the air was stifling and the sun failed to shine and it was strangely very dark at that hour for so early in that month.I got up for a moment and looked out the window.I noticed there was a dark cloud as of an approaching hurricane hanging over the western skies and partly overhead, but that was not unusual.Though itmight havelooked to strangers as if a heavy rain was approaching, I knew it was smoke from that far distant forest fires.I went back to bed feeling still rather sleepy, but I couldn't sleep on account of the heat.As soon as I lay in bed and tried to force a little sleep I I heard noise as if people were in a panicin the streets and the darkness was more thicker and a strange glare seemed to redden my room.I ran to the window to look out but it grew so dark and the streets seemed so fogged in f smoke that I could not see anything.Then there was a noise like wind accompanied by a roaring sound as though the wooken weaker or wooden houses were being torn to pieces.It grew perfectly black all about me, and the force of the gale then rising was like a hurricane and a strong gust of wind sucked out the window of the bedroom, and then in came a blast of wind that was hot like a flame.I thought the earth had collasped under me wa and was sinking to the bowels of the earth.There was a noise as if a million skyrockets hissing and crackling, and before my window everything in the sky seemed to be of fire.The door of my room first flu flewopen with a bang, and then swung shut, and I for a few moments scarcely daring to breathe lay still.Theuproar of winds continued, and outside I saw buildings all afire.The heat almost drove me mad.As my bed caught fire, and the room became full of smoke I couldn't stay there.I found the door through the smoke haze, and opened it.The wind was still blowing a terrific gale, and so hot that I could not breathe but it was a not so dark now, and the air was so full of heat that I almost felt as if I was going blind.I saw crowds of people running with property on their backs tward a lone location of the town where there was yet no fire/.

I decided to joinbthem. I dipped a rag into a water buckeytbucket, and tied it over my face, then went out.The roaring of the hot wind was fearful.As it was impossible to stand up before that terrific "fire hurricane" I made my way on my hands and knees to the back wall of the house.I took the rag off my eyes and saw that the f[illegible]n fallen.Everything back of me was afire. I thought I was mad or going dem ny.However I could see about me for about four hundred yards now because of the light thrown by the flames.There was not a being in sight now.A most dreadful fire was flashing from the houses everywhe

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and to me the flames seemed to be leaping hundreds of feet, throwing a dread- ful heat. Indeed the heat made me frantic, and I threw myself down into a street corner hoping to escape the heat, and I fell on something and broke my leg, my left one.The main tide of fire had gne on tward the t north.I tried to craw crawl along the street, and fell into what looked like a water puddle. It was water but nearly scaldwing hot, and nearly bro l broiled my arm off. I finally found a place on the outskirts of the city nearest the flood waters and that too nearest the shore was very warm.I stayed there that day and all night watching the city burn.I could see nothing but great walls of flame seemingly clouds high.The next morning I crawled south along the flood course listening to the noise of those muddy waters.I saw no one, man woman or child, neither any kind of animal and everything eastward within my sight was still all aflame.I thought I would drown myself, but I must have fainted, for I knew nothing untill I found myself here."

"You sure had an awful experience"said Gertrude pitingly"But it might teach you a lesson.You know who is responsible.Why don't you join the army and pay the enemy back for your loss."

"I did." he answered. "I'm in the army now.I'm waiting for my uniform."

Another man who witnessed the dreadful forest fire from a high forestless hill, and who though surrounded otherwise by smo smoke and fire nevertheless escaped death;, after fleeing to the top told something of the fire as far as he could and at interh intervals.The man scorchd by heat and suffocated by smoke was insane at times from his sufferings.He was trapped on that small hill only forested half way up on the morning the cataclysm of fire struck the city.

"I heard first a noise like a approaching cyclone.I cannot describe the noise of the wind, for it left me scared for an instant and I thought one of those frightful storms was coming.When I stood up the trees before me were all twisting and wrighting in fearful throes.The whole sky was black except where the fire was coming, and there it was all aglare.To my right there was a great upright shaft of flame that must have reached for miles in extent moving forward at hurricane speed, and it was so bright that the black cloud was pierced in manyplaces places.I cl could see rising from one side of this tremendous wall of fire a great sea of smoke.While I am telling it to you, the flames racing forward too swiftly to describe it enveloped the trees of my hill.I saw it strike also the town of St Francis, and I could see the people rushing out of their houses and going through the streets in panic and confusion.Hundreds had ran out of their houses at the first awful roar of the fire hurricane. Most of them were seen getting away, but the rest seemed to be caught.The city was enveloped and it only seemed an hour before the flames and smoke passed on to the northward a sweeping ocean of fire.St Francis,with all its houses, as except those nearest the water front, all the people running about in the streets-- all everything within my sight---had been engulfed by that dreadful ocean of fire.The fire as going northwestward reached the forest edging by the flood.There was an awful hissing sound as of many skyrockets as the red tide rushed on over the trees.The air about me was seething with heat flame and smoke, and a flaming tree fell on me.Then I didn't remember anything more of it."

Later Gertrude went to see an old ladt who was a nurse,cand who had had a most thrilling experience in her owncescape.She was a Red Cross Nurse, and was in the town of St Gertrude, and in charge of Marie St Claires three sick children, children who had suffered prostrations from heat.The womans name was Muid Jones.This woman and a six year old boy were the only survivors of the damily.The woman was not seriously injured however, but her little charge suffered severely and it took three doctors and all they could do to save his life, and then for a long time his li fe was a matter of great uncertainity.Where were you when the disaster happened???????"asked Gertrude."

"I was in the bed room next to those of the mother and the threeoe ch ld children." she said."I couldn't sleep because it had been so hot, and the child ren were constantly calling water for they were in a fever from the heat.One of the boys was calling for water, and I was about to get up and bring it , when I heard someone shout outside in the street as he ran past;"My God look at the forest fire." I immediately got up, and went to th e window.I was 'a terribly frightened at what I observed.I saw a vast wall of flame suriging through all the trees.A number of people ran through the streets;"The fires coming.The fires coming." evidently trying towake the people up.I rushedh to the childrens bed room.At that moment I experienced a feeling of suffocation the children were gasping for air, and then there followed an intense heat, and a terrible roar as of a hurricane breaking loose. The upperpart of the house broke into flame.The tenants who had escaped from above assited me and the surviving boy to escape.The other two had died.Jones six year old sister died.The mother toosuccomed.We got away through a portion of the city not yet afire and a cavalry escort rescued us and brought us here."

"You can thank God you were safe." said Gertrude."But we all have had it and I think it is terrible."

First of all refugees who passed through the seething hell of flame and smoke and reached Gertrudes refuge to tell about it, a number of forest rangers rode up.They brought with them a thrilling story, not only of their own experiences but of the fire rangers elsewhere, and their heroic leader,whom they visited in an encampment hospilte hospital on Rufina Hill.These rangers are battling the flames without success, got through nevertheless and reached St Gertrude on the evening of August the First, expecting to find shelter for the night.But the state of what was left of the town showed that those who may have escaped must have undergown an awful experience. South and east of the town the countryside was coverwe covered with smoking ashes and forest debris and smouldering tree trunks still standing.Half the ash ashes was still in a red hot state. The fire had made sure work of itself,and this was shown by findin g only portions of still standing but smoking trees.The scene of ruin in the town was deplorable. "The captain of the Rangers said to Gertrude-

"We found St Gertrude under martial law by your own escort soldiers. Other soldiers were engaged in locating valuables to save from vandals. some of them stopped this work to show us around.The town presented an awful spectacl indeed,and had the appean appearance of a city which had been sunk into the bottomless pit and pulled out again. In tearing away the smouldering debris they kept findingportions of human bodies.Hearing that the Mayor of this town had survived,and was at an internment camp for fire refugees on a huge levee I and a number of my men went to see him.I was not at all prepared for the frightful sight which met my gaze.It was enough to frightenan y one. He was hardly anything now.His face was burned to the color of teakwood, and huge patches of skin here and there were burned completely off from the bones.Both hands and his feet were swathed in bandages, and rested on big pillows.It pained me to look at him.I told him who I was,and he was glad that I a forest ranger had come to see him.Then he told me;

"I was awakened an hour before midnight"said he"When the catastrophe occured. "I couldn't talk sleep rather because of the terrible hot weather which I believed was produced by the distant forest fires.There was at that time a constant and very strong wind blowing, and increasing rapidly,and as the wind increased the heat, and a dreadful glare was in the sky lighting up my bedroom to the color of fire I finally got up and went to the window to see what was happening.Suddenly I saw what appeared to be a huge fiery squaller hurricane like a longwall aproaching the city from the forest of trees within sight at a terrific rate carrying with it a huge cloud of rolling snapping booming flame, and accompanied by a loud rumbling sound.... The air which had been so black before suddenly brightened, and the heat becameintense..... I yelled out for everybody in the house to awaken and get out, and almost in an instant after I had succeeded in arousing every one and they were running out side, the foremost part of the city within easy sight in enveloped in total seas of flames, and even over head from the fury of the winds the air was filled with flame, and falling embers on fire, sparks and so forth and fire braids from trees, which ignited everything they struck. There was a terrible panic and the streets afore me became crowded with refugees, many runningout of their houses before they were aflm aflame.The forest fire however spread throughout the forests on two sides with amazing rapidity, and finally it seemed the fire took hold of the town in nearly all parts, and the refugees and all of us seemed about to be cut off from escape.I managed to get my horse hitched toa wagon and a n umber of men came to help place my easily movable household a rticles in it.Hell cer ainly is not worse than what we went throughwhile frantically trying to save our goods.When the wind grew stronger thewagon almost keeled over, but this shock only lasted a fewminutes, and then slackened.Then I signalled to the driver to go ahead.The wagon seat had been carried away by the wind, and luckily I had wetted my clothes before going out.The horse tried to start but the wheells of the wagon that is the rear one was jammed in some fallen wreckage and wouldn't budge, and the fire was rapidly overtaking us.I kept the horses going ahead and backwards alternately hoping thus the wagon could be drawn loose.Finally I succeeded.I remembered seeing huge clouds of flame rising from the nearest houses.Many fleeing people were wringing their hands and people were jumping fromlowerwindows of their burning homes into the streets.Many of those coming near me were swept to death by a falling wall.After a time I got the wagon drawn loose from the rubbish and headed down a darker stre t.As I did so a terrific cloud of fla me shot past and almost enveloped me, burning my hands feet and face despite the wet clothes I had on.The sky was full of flame and the light was so bright that it was possible to see down the e flame envelped streets.Men women and children partly buriedunder ruins were screaming and writhing in agony all around and the rubbish that hold gh them was red hot.People were running, and dying everywhere it seemed.I was in a bad state myself unable to lift my hands, and the blood from from wounds and burns on my face and head kept running into my eyes.

I decided to make for the direction of the flood ifpossible, as it was the only haven, and with the help of a man I succeeded in making the shore of the flood, but I had to go into the water part way to save my wagon as it was on fire in parts.During that terrible trip I had seen many refugees who had succeeded in escaping through the fire.I saw one man who met a horrible death.He escaped from the first burning building when its walls fell as I

endeavored to get the wagon out of the way.Not finding his way blocked and and shdddd and trying to follow me he was s struck by a falling mass of foliage from a tree in the street which burnedone side of his face completely off.I left himand escaped."

"What did you do afterwards yourself."Gertrude asked the Captian of the Rangers.

"I learned full details as to how many may haveperishedin the city"he answered. In the time occupied the exprience of those who succeeded in getting out of the burning city, and from the path of the fire had an experience that was still worse than any one could ever describe. The brave mayor of that town according to the testimony of others fighting through the fire, exhausted, burned, and blinded by smoke, struggled and worked trying to do something to assist their dying comrades.Those more able bodied strove to aid many others. I've heard the real number that perished out of that town of 167,000 is about 15,789 persons all caught by fire or falling walls before they had time to rouse enough to get out of bed.They were caught asleep .The Mayor suffering the great at agn agony succeeded in bringing his wagon and his goods to the shore of the flood.His driver constantly wiped the Mayors eyes.And I think Miss Aronburg the performer of this Mayor was most wonderful, and thewhole when I saw hispitiful condition . I do not understand how he kept up when forced forced to go through that hell, yet when the man was brought to the camps on the levee and medical assistance wasas procured, this brave man asked the doctors to attend to others of the refugees first; and even refused to allow himself to recieve treatment untill this was done.

I and my own followers had a terrific battle against the flames, and my 10,000 men had fought desperately to try and save the towns. everything before us was a mass of seething flames but we worked like mad.Clouds of smoke obscured our visch at times and spread over all the land and the flood waters darkening the sun.The flames and the heat drove us back all the time.When partial dark ness came upon us everybody of my force were badly frightened.After the frightful stories we have heard tell,and the sights we had seen because of the fires elsewhere, and the results of the flood too, and fearing some awful explosions, we did not know but that we ourselves were to be caught in the fire or engulfed in the flood, though we were ten miles from the waters.

"Make a quick retreat"I ordered, and none of my men and officers within hearing needed an any urging.Slowly but surely our horses drew us away slowly through a hot suffocating atmosphere, and at last we managed to outrun the conflagration but then the sun did not shine.We had passed beyond the hurricane of fire,and when I looked at my watch I found that we had been four hours trying to escape the blaze.George Anders of my for e was one of the few men of my command of rangers who miraculiously escaped.In flight his horse stumbled and he was thrown into the watir of some creek with four others riding horses with him.All waremore or less scalded by hot waterGeorge held on to a piece of wreckage brought down the swollen creekk creek by the flood; and saw a scene of magnificent horror. There was an incessant blizzard of burning fallin e hurled forward by the wind according to what he told me and he saw a big village burn .The air whistled and cracked, and the wind howled and the flames boomed and snapped as if a heavy battle was raging.Meanwhile he had been drifting toard the flood, but the current and also the wind shifted,and he was carried toard the flaming forest.However he and his companions ekept afloat on their improvised raft for two hours, and saw a burning ship while drifting about Afyer being adrift for about three hours the party saw a boat and they swam to it.They found it full of smoking rubbish.They emptied the craft and they got in it.Some hours afterwards they were discovered by some of my party, and they were rescued from the hot waters.After we retreated from the fire we strove to rescue those from the fire purlied town of Gloria. Many whom we rescued were all badly burned, and some of them died.While we were doing this work of rescue the heat became troublesome.We approached the town, and discovered it to be burning.We made signals but no replies were recieved We then remained close to the flood shore for the night,, and witnessed a remarkable spectacle of fire and smoke, and many detonations were heard..We decided to go nearer, but the smoke became dense as we approached, and many dead bodies were floating on the flood. They were burnt and swollen,and floating in groups in some cases twenty or more each.

As we aproeached the s city of St Gertrude at that time we saw it a mass smouldering mass of ruin.We then joined some big river craft and went toward another endangered section known as Tillie.The thickness of the smoke was heavy and shrouded the boats.The boats from all two ships were then put overboard and the res ue of the fire refugees from the shore commenced early in the morning.We were all half stifled by smoke and heat and our eyes were weeping, indeed the heat was intolerable. Some score of the refugees camecm to us in boats, they were nearly naked and some of them were crying,and none had anything with them. The refugees were sent to the upper decks to get something to eat.The refugees were all saved by the afternoon except a few who refused to leave the shore.

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We were stillwaiting and signalling for them to come when there was a sudden tremendous wind blowing, quickly rising to a terrific gale. This hot wind caused great excitement on shore and the last boat returned to us bringing the remainder of the refugees including those who had refused to leave. They had been frightened by the r frightful rise of the winds, and jumping into the flood waters swam to the boat. We save sixteen hundred people from the maw of the flames."

"You Rangers are the best men known" said Gertrude. "If you could yourselves bring us through this region to Emperor Vivians army at Evangeline St Claire we would like it very much."

That evening A gust August the third Gertrude contemplated on the effects of the dks disaster, and an argument she had with Mildred Maxwell that late afternoon. The final end of the cause mentioned as Mildred said will come with the greatest effects of this disaster the world had ever known, and unless the mobilized armies can come down from the north, the end of the christian cause will come. Mildredhad said that in further proof of this was already the worst of these troubles already raging. But Gertrude thought a little different and she was not in the least bit discouraged. She knew Abbiemmias power, she had studied Histories of Abbiemmia, and she knew Glandelinia really really was her prey, for if necessity she would in her determination gather ll all other christian states, that shewould and may assemble the mightiest armies, to pour upon wicked glandelinia or any other foe her indignations, even all her fierce anger. Gertrude had once that afternoon said to Mildred-

"It looks pretty bad for us now, I won't deny that, but in some battle sooner or later Manleys organizations will fail. Manley is as bad as that "old serpent" which is the Devil, and Satan, and as his chuseknight he just as wicked. I do not see how he or Glande landelinia can win. some day some one or other will be shooting down these vile Glandelinian chieftians and I'll bet'll it'll be the Vivian Girls too. When these Glandelinian chieftians and his or their Confederates have been removed, we won't have no fear as to what the outcome will be."

But Mildred Maxwell could not, and did not see the po int,, and though she knew Emperor Vivian ruled the nation in righteousness and lead them against such a foe as Glandelinia, and that He and His followers were great and wise Counselors to instruct the generals through theirministers in the right way of campaigning and battling and so forth she did not nevertheless believe that Calverinia would be succored. Of the increasy of the wars dreadful fury, there shall be no doubt. She did not believe the zeal of Emperor Vivian would perform any good outcome for the nation, and many of the other girlscout followers backed up up mildred in her argument. And besides there were too many dangerous Glandelinian spies to draw the christian armies into trouble. And besides it c u could not bepossible that any one should be brought to an accurate knowledge of the truth as to the cause of the calamities now raging, and even if knew ing the truth, it would bring no good results, as Glandelinia was too powerful to be withstood. The majority of the people who have fled from the War Zone prefered an end of this dreadful conflict, if they knew how to obtain it. And to make matters worse many officers have been deceived and misled by many frad fraudulent schemons of the enemy spies, whi which had the appearance of good. The whole country mildred said was in distress and perplexity, knowing not what to do, because of Glandelinias dreadful war operations at this time. Gertrude however argued that under the proper efforts of Emperor Vivian and his best generals, the arnd army officers will learn what glandelinias purpose is and will be, and this willaid them in campaigning and fighting the enemy enemy right. Glandelinian officials and generals and the like who have and are debauching themselves with making such calamities, are also their own greatest foes and are a menance to all civilization. The making of bloody massacres was filthy in the extreme, and a great curse to the human race. Not only does the making of such calamities work great injury upon Glandelinia for it, but the exciting effects is spread amongst the nations of the world, and brings all nations against Glandelinia. Calverinia will be relieved from this horror bye and bye. Gertrude argued that great attempts were now being made almost incessantly to eradicate this dreadful disaster evil, but Mildred also argued argued that all this was was without success. Floods, fires, explosions frightful battles and all the disasters of the war she said have world great havoc within Calverinias's very household. All the disasters of war she said cannot be eradicated untill the Glando/inians are driven out of the christian territories of Calverinia. High Financial losses upon the people surviving have brought great sorrow, and though the people wanted this redressed, it could not be done. Murderous massacres of children have drenched the earth in childrens blood, and that too should be revenged, and is not. And because of disasters human experiences demonstrate beyond a doubt, that law enforcement or attempted enforcement by means of heavy fines, imprisonment, and death of the doers has not lessened the disasters. And she said this was conclusive proof that all

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the suggested remendies of all advisers in the question of stopping Glandelinia Glandelinia in her disaster making are inadequate. Why then should the high officials of the Government waste further time and effort in following after the suggested remedies of men and they know nothing theiselves. Calverinia first must be cleared of all Glandelinians, and that alone will make the country plain for the nature of the situation to be reformed, and destroy the enemy who cause all this to go on. But Gertrude again argued that Emperor Vivian in due time will make the way for the people so plain and clear, and to arouse the whole country, and to drive such a foe out. They will learn that God can bring about many things, and that He can cause Gland l Glandelinia to be forced to make atonement for the disasters she has created. And all the christian armies will see that by putting forth their endeavors at the utmost to do the right kind of battling they will help the cause a long way, and if they continue faithful the country of Calverinia will sooner than be expected be fully reto restored to normal conditio conditions. Gertrude said-

"A lion is used as a symbol of the devil. A ravenous beast is used as a symbol of the devils cruel organization, and yet Glandelinia as a symbol worse than that of a lion. Well we can find means to kill any i wild a and dreadful dreadful beast, n and Calverinia shall be redeemed. But Mildred could not see it that way. She declared that because of the disasters and their effects millions of people are suffering from physicial and mental sickness, and the well refugees are making a great effort to restore what is left but are failing. She said God alone could save them from those ailments and give them Health and strength. Gertrude declared it has been said that experience is the best teacher, and that man is permitted to experience the baneful effects of the dessisting effects of all wars and its disasters. And yet they do not profit by it. Those who have investigated the disasters have learned little or nothing by reason of the experience of Glandelinian generals in hiding all dangerous clues.

What the investigators must learn above all things, and what is of great and importance to them in order to discover anything is of and concerning who were really responsible, and not trying to findout who blew up the "Maine".

Not by imprisonment or otherwise, will any captured archive confess. There is nothing that warrants the conclusion, that it takes men of long experience in investigating disasters in order to learn real causes. On the contrary it is seen that a lack of knowledge of Glandelinias ways has been their great handicap. Even the investigation schools teach that investigation must begin principal. No one yet discovered what really happened at Abbiemm, and the disaster is blamed upon Nature."

Gertrude said "The lack of knowledge is due to the deception practiced by the Glandelinian generals, and by this means they have covered upon or up all clues. Yet this great hinderance will be removed, by some incident that we know nothing of yet. When investigations are in full sway some one will be able to bring a full knowledge of the truth. A man of knowledge you know increases strength. Then when the right discoverer comes there will be no hinderance in finding the clues, and then all people shall come to know what the cata strophe really was and who was responsible. For they all shall know them. To day as you said millions and millions of people are in great sorrow dire distress, fright and horror, and perplexity because of the disasters, and the country had no knowledge of the causes and what they really were. The disasters Mildred have been established by Glandelinia, because of the lack of knowledge of the Calverinian authorities. We all desire to know the real cause of the disaster, at Abbiemm and its Nature, or what it really was. When the investigation is in full sway we will then know it all. Not by experiments on the disasters but by proper investigation for clues, as what they were and so on. The only possible manner of clean ing up on these clues is to know also their causes. Then all will be well, and that can and will be done."

CHAPTER ELEVEN.

IN WHICH GERTRUDE GOES ON A EXCITING JOURNEY THROUGH THE FIERY DREAD;
ABOUT ANOTHER STATEMENT AS TO WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISASTER;
IN WHICH GERTRUDE DOES SOME WORK;
IN WHICH SHE IS LOST;
ALL IN A DAY IN AUGUST THE 4TH.........

As this story concerns the outcome of the long trip toward Emperor Vivians army via Evangeline St Claire city, and only incidentally the history of their long detour through the disaster zone of both fire, and water; the reader will therefore be spared the sad scenes concerning the night of the catastrophe which struck the home and caused the deaths of ten girlscouts and of the ensuing days of mourning. Gertrude whom we have to do with, after her interview with the survivors of the disaster came along with the doctor to the Infirmary part of the building.

"Every one no matter whom is assemble forline for the roll call." she cried.

"Then as it was done she turned to the doctor and said;

"Here's one girlscout who is to get complete rest for the next seven or eight days while we continue resuming the [illegible] march" and she pointed to Dolores who had been the most shaken of them all since the nights horror. Dolores who was standing behind the doctor and the Infirmarian, smiled genially, raised her left leg and while balancing herself on her left or right, waved it [illegible] medically."

"What good will her resting do" said the doctor, turning sharply and catching her in the act "Just look at her" she is trying to knock her injured leg again against something right now.

"No I am not" protested the discomfited acrobat, bringing her foot to the floor, "I'm not a fool you know." Whereupon she resumed her smile, for she knew that Jean would be her companion, and the doctor then also laughed.

"Ofcourse, doctor" persued Gertrude to the man of medicine "You are to diet the three of us; I Dolores, and Miss Riches."

"What is that?" asked one of the boyscouts who overheard the remark.

"It means [illegible] silence in the ranks." answered Gertrude. "I didn't give "at rest" You are at "ATTENTION", then she asked in an undertone what the diet would be and the doctor answered in a lower tone: "Four pieces of toast, and [illegible] milk for breakfast, same for dinner, and the same for supper."

A boy not having much sense and overhearing this and thinking it was meant for him broke in with-

I'm not sick."

"You look it" put in Angeline Riches herself. "For so speaking when you know you are attention I'll leave the matter with Gertrude" And the other suddenly broke in "You can't go outside of the camps for a [illegible], and if you don't keep quiet after this, I'll not let you out at all. Now remember sonny no hopping over beds, like you used to, no [illegible], no jumping about the room no running. When you walk a walk slowly. But the best thing you can do is to keep quiet, and for a week you'll get three pieces of toast, and black tea without cream or sugar, breakfast, dinner, and supper for all that time."

"Oh pshaw" he thought to himself. The boy was disgusted, and even his friends jolly as ever could not reconcile him to his imprisonment. Nor did he become reconciled as the days passed--- after swallowing his small pieces of toast, he was wont to seek out the Infirmarian.

"Mr please" he would say, "I believe I am ready for breakfast now."

"You just had your breakfast."

"What. You call that a breakfast. Look here brother I'm a scout and I'm paying for it."

The soldier would answer with a grin, and finally say "Speak to Miss Aronburg about it. I'm acting under her orders and can give you no more." and the boy would turn away growling. However his [illegible] penances made it that he [illegible] over [illegible] in ranks again unless he was allowed to.

On that same morning Gertrude herself recieved a telegraphic letter which brought a whoop from her.

"What are you howling about now?" asked [illegible] Dolores who with the exception of a slight bruise and a touch of stiffness, was as well as ever.

"Read the letter yourself" cried Gertrude, tossing the letter to Dolores, and hopping about the room in an ecstasy of joy.

Dolores recieved the letter, opened it, and read!!!

"Evangeline St Claire. July the 28th 1913;;;;;

"To our friend Angeline Aronburg!!!!!

Dear Gertrude!!

"Have just heard from forest rangers, and [illegible], and others fuller details of this awful calamity going on, and of your injuries, and of your losses and so forth, and how the disasters have checked your progress. Hear too that all of your followers have been changing for the better--- that Jack Sanders too is changing, ---got more sense--- more faith in his duty--- and tries harder to cure himself of his carelessness. Glad to learn too, that you and to your followers are brave, but far too reckless. Best of all I'm told your company is good in its work of investigations of the ruined cities of St Gertrude, and Francis.

Although I have heard you are all quite well, I think a few weeks rest and change might be wise, and you ought to take a furlough for a few days. As I wrote you last September, I have moved off from Evangeline St Claire when I wrote you this letter to take command of my army that is west of here. In a few days Emperor Vivian will move up with his armies to strengthen the city and I'm leaving him part of my army, and General Cannon had already planned to force an engagement with the Manleys. Federal just now is only concentrating upon Evangeline St Claire, and the Manleys are still far away.

When you get to Emperor Vivians army if you can, which I doubt, start for me at once. I'll be at Quip town. Will telegraph an escort to meet you at the camp. Have advised General Sandro Bargar to give you a strong escort of Concentinian Cavalry, and enclose you a pass through the proper territory.

Good bye till we meet, and God bless you, and may His Blessed Mother and the Saints intercede [illegible] for you and guard you through all your adventures safely.

Your Uncle,

Concentinian Aronburg.

Alas, Williamsburger Zimmermann;;;

Gertrude that morning decided to do some secret scouting so at half past ten that morning August 4th Gertrude was standing on the platform of an old half ruined house, waving her handkerchief to her [illegible] as she waited for the coming of her horse. She reached the city of St Gertrude fifteen minutes after the time she had intended to, and Gertrude who was counting for the last three hours on a grand [illegible] lunch somewhere, was obliged it seemed to go hungry for the time being. But here even in the ruined city her forced patience was rewarded. A squad of soldiers belonging to those guarding the city at her orders was squatted around a camp fire having a regular feast.

"How much more articles have any of you [illegible] found?" inquired Gertrude catching one of the soldiers by the sleeve, and fastening upon him one of the most earnest gazes, this particular soldier had ever encountered.

"Plenty of jewelry without any [illegible] chromo. We also found a whole circus." [illegible] The man was chuckling between each word.

"Pshaw is that all you man could find. Why mister, I'd be willing to do all I can for a girlscout. You are going to lose [illegible] sooner or later on this trip. I've not a whole week to make up for. Got any left overs so that I can eat."

"Yes" said one of the soldiers. "Come along and I'll show you a good meal even in his ruined city."

And Gertrude needed no second bidding. A soldier with an austere face and a dusty uniform showed Gertrude to a house not touched by the fire, nearest the flood, and making a mistake handed Gertrude a paper, and waited for the order. Gertrudes brows knitted as she read the bewildering words---a [illegible] rhyme about the "Cow jumping over the moon."

"I say you don't expect me to eat that do you" she asked pointing to the words. The man not at all changing his austere expression told her what he could secure for her to eat."

"All right, for heavens sake bring them in [illegible]" said Gertrude.

The soldier changed expression.

"Fr Fetch in which."

"Anything you can bring."

The soldier [illegible] scratched his head;

"Look here mr soldier"said Gertrude almost seriously: "I haven't had a square meal for over two weeks. This long excursion we have been making has been making me as a "Lenten penance for over two weeks, till I'm nearly ruined. Now I command you to go right to work, and get me lots to eat, gather a good square meal, and I'll give you a dollar for yourself."

The sign of austerity left the soldiers face as he hurried away. Indeed Gertrude received a meal that would have been good enough for a starving princess, and besides she did it justice. The soldier who was stationed behind her ready to wait upon her at her command in case she desired to alter the orders, could not hardly believe his eyes. He had never seen any girl eat like that before, and Gertrude ignorant of the astonishment she had brought on, plied knife and fork in a quiet determined way, thinking in her heart that the refugees would be having the same meal.

However after threeee quarters of an houre steady attention to the matter in hand, Gertrude arose quite calmly,, whereupon the soldier who had been viewing her performance behind, slipped quietly away, and Gertrude making the sign of the Cross, returned thanks for her meal.... she then gave one dollar and fifty cents to the soldier for his serving her, and walked away. Indeed it was a strange wonder that Gertrude was not sick after this. Many thought she would have been and would have suffered intensely. And o yet if any of the recording angels put anyone on the black list for gluttony on this particular day, anyone may think it may have been the one who caused Gertrudes long fast, and not the girlscout.

Even while the exploration of and guarding by the soldiers under Angeline a [illegible] went on, while the chief force of boy and girlscouts were stuck in this locality by both the forest fire, and the fury of the flood, while elsewhere,, the sympathetic world was hurrying relief, to the millions who were suffering and had not died, while the hapless states full of people were trying to recollect their shattered thoughts, and from the awful fact that they had lost all they held most dear, but by these combination of disasters, Nature goaded on by the enemy, Clandelinia,, ,,,I remained unkind remained unkind and cruel::::::

The forest fire continued to race onward further north burning all that remained in its path, and the floods continued still the [illegible] dams, and as much unabated as before, the undaunted parts of the nation relieved and plus complicated had news as to the [illegible] disaster And there was no prospects of the force of Girl and boyscouts getting any where at all, and being their own refuge at the home had been threatened with the destruction. Sometimes even the soldiers were driven in flight from the vicinity of the city by fresh dangers almost hourly, and the [illegible] were threatened by the flood which had risen two feet higher, and some of the Orphan Asylum grounds were being covered with water.

Even when the soldiers were not terrified into flight, the work of guarding the dreadful ruins was trying to the [illegible] and [illegible] alike. And as the flood threatened to inundate the city the situation grew worse. Even Gertrude and her officers and other followers felt that they too were unable to withstand the terrible hardships, and continue to encounter the terrible sights that were with them [illegible] of the days that they remained there. And Gertrude indeed from the horrible nature of the ruins was surprised that there were no more dead in sight. They had not counted more than a thousand bodies along the streets since they been visiting the city, and believed that either the others were buried entirely under the mantle of debris or that the predicted death list was tremendously exaggerated.

Every moment of their stay within the vicinity of the dreaded city, and the near by desolated landscape they felt the flood would increase and envelope the city and their Orphan Asylum Refuge. Yet that they hoped the flood would burst through somewhere and quench some of the billows of death dealing fire, which elsewhere continued [illegible] progressing forward, changing the nature of the forested country side every hour.

"Gertrude said that day"its terrible but we'll have to move, as its the stench and the danger of pestilence that makes this region a place of greater horror to us than caused by the passage of the fire itself. And our refuge is threatened by the flood. But it seems we'll have to chance the flood."

"I can't see where a pestilence can come anywhere"said one of the boys. "All of the bodies found on the surface have been burned, and those entirely under the ruins have been cremated entirely by the flames. And if this had not been so it would require months even with a great force of men to dispose of these dead properly if the number is truely accurate."

"But the waters is coming up"protested Joy. We have our raft in the harbor of this city in constant readiness to take us away if the flood rises higher and more becomes more threatening."

"But we can make it easier enough"said Jack. "A watch is constantly maintained ready to give us warning, and if the flood threatens to overwhelm this territory the place can be immediately deserted. Aside from our soldier escorts in the ruined city there is not a human being anywhere,. All who have not been overwhelmed by the fire have fled elsewhere.""

"There's no getting through the flood anyhow just now"said Penrod. "We might have to stay here another week before we can go ahead, and then maybe the fires in the burned city and among the wrecked buildings might have died out, and we could then explore the whole city. We can then publish to the world more of the harrowing tales from this stricken region. Our soldier escorts are still digging in the debris of houses that have cooled, and also stores in our continued search of documents and valuables. We can continually write to the Princesses, and keep them in touch with us."

"I don't believe"said John "that there was such a number of victims of this fire. Of course the number of victims was found so great in places that in the great heaps of commingled dead, identification by soldiers and rescue workers if they do came would be difficult. But the list of fifty thousand I believe my self is greatly exaggerated. And there does not seem to be any deadly odor of the bodies either because they are burned entirely cremated, and so the workers if they came would not find the task of handling them horribly offensive as in the case in this flood, but not even dangerous as well. We have been here now, quite a few days its August the fourth, and our soldiers report that only less than two thousand cremated bodies were found and all are too badly cremated to be [illegible] disentangled from the ruins. If the loss if great then the rest must be buried in the ruins. I believe its safer to stay here till everything goes instead of [illegible] taking chances with a trip on the flood at this stage."

"How could the fire have done this destruction so complete and catching many unawares?" asked Mildred Maxwell.

"Don't you know silly,"said Angeline Riches"That big forest fires are usually preceded by what is called "A fire hurricane"?

"Yes, I forgot that" answered Mildred"and I can explain that too. It is supposed that the enormous heat of such a wide or stretch of flames produces a great atmospheric pressure ahead of the advancing conflagration. Even a forest fire of such awful heat they say will in front of its advance form or produce the formation of a sulphurated hydrogen gas, hot and scorching, which like volcanic gases would cause thousands to die of sheer suffocation, before the forest fire itself could reach them. And anyhow girls who can on foot outrun this forest fire. Why it's sheer impossible, a horse could even outrun it, not even an express train. This then would explain the conditions,,, of the bodies found in the burned forest area covered with strange superficial swellings, or cremated entirely caused by the great cloud of fire which roared on through the forests. All the dead cremated and found in the forest were found to be covered with two feet of smouldering forest ashes showing many were overtaken even while in flight from the [illegible] town."

"I saw yesterday an evidence of where the wave of fire had stopped about two or three hundred yards from the northern suburb of the town." said Mary [illegible]."

"How?" asked all within hearing simultaneously.

"By observing where a few trees were still standing and where in that section all of the houses escaped destruction even [illegible] a few big buildings of wood too were untouched. I saw some people in [illegible] though, but one of the soldiers who went in, found them all dead. I believe they had been suffocated, but not [illegible] disfigured, and they could so easily be identified."

"And"said [illegible], I observed the bones of an old man lying by some wagon so partly burned. The old man was still holding the reins which were scorched in his half cremated hands as though about to get in the wagon when stricken down by heat or flames. A little girl and boy lay dead by his side. The features of both showed that they had died a painful death. [illegible] near them and behind a parlor door, was the body of a young girl. Her hair was down, and [illegible] was stamped upon her face."

"There are many freaks in the city." said Angeline. "I have seen in the streets of the city heaps of melted copper and of silver. I went to the neighborhood of a telegraph office of the place, I looked around, and found the instruments, and after tracing the rest found some of them had been thrown to a distance of one hundred yards by the force of the fire [illegible]. The metal of the instruments was melted, but I could recognize the instruments."

"There is one thing that is puzzling"said Jennie Turner.

"And what is that?" asked Mary Stanch."

"What the Nation'll do with the ruin and wreck of these portions of devastated [illegible], and the [illegible] thousands of rotting bodies that will be left lying in the mud when the floods finally recedes, and also what to do for the millions of refugees."

"That will be the most serious problem which the authorities of our country will have to solve, for even though the upper states and the outer world have given us assurances that the survivors would receive food through its benevolence, the situation still remains critical with the menace from such a cruel foe as Clandelinia."""

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"The enemy prevent most of the work that is necessary." said Mal Klein. "And if the flood does recede, the burial parties of troops, and even forced Glandelinian prisoners forced at the work will be utterly inadequate to this awful situation.Since they started, if they did do anything they may have buried 70?000 armore of the corpses, but with already three hundred thousand known dead, that helps but little.Many bodies you know too have been swept away to mysterious unknowns.It is evident I'm afraid that soon the stench from decaying bodies of humanns and animals will be so horrible, and the danger of plague so great, that even this work would have to be stopped .It's this situation I believe, that makes friend Mildred here believe we are the losers in this terrible war.If so I'd walk home this minute."

"But that would seem cowardly"said Mildred."There has been talk of abandoning the site of the drowned out cities and towns altogether, and placing guards of soldiers around them to make sure they could not be approached by vandals.If this is done as planned as much quick human responsible could be scattered over the ruins.Then time and the birds of the air could be trusted to the scavenger work.If this were done it can even then be realized that a year or two at least must pass before any one of these flood swept towns could be entered.Oh if any one could only know the immeasureable magnitude of these disasters they could then only comprehend the awfulness of the situation we are in.No wonder I do not believe we'll win.I don't see why we ain't whippped whipped already....."

"There were proposals"said Jane Melfort of having Batavia bombard the ruins of the to n towns and cities with the purpose of battering the stilll still standing walls down upon the bodies in the wreckage and giving them thus wholesale burial, whdh however frightful as it seems to do this, would not be unfitting after the burial they met."

"But that would be prodigious work." said Catherine Estrabrook."Not at least prodigious, but impossible.That many of these towns and cities may never be rebuilt is probable. Certainly there could be no cities on the spot for many decades even if the floods soon ceased, as the entire country is being devastated, and there'll be no lumber to even use for rebuilding if these fires continue burning up our forests.The enemy sure knew how to strike and did..."""

"""""" Attempts were made by these girlscout officers to get a view of the far distant forest fires and see what the indications were for their chances of continuing the journey toward Emperor Vivians army through the burned territory.

It was a perilous and risky journey, how perilous it can be best understood when it can be related that on one occassion the fires were so fierce that the heat would singeone twelvemiles away, and drove people of towns and villiages all before it.The girlscouts despite wetting their clothing were driven back several times, but they managed to discover that the whole country side as far as eye could see was all aflame and a smoulder,. Dense smoke clouds hid the view, but it was certain that their progress was no longer available.A n new fire horror further away seemed to confirm the stories of the witnesses from the refugees they met with, that thoflood also was rising.

That afternoon too the wind suddenly shifted north and as a result terror and fear were wide spread over the stricken country.Though the fire now was nearly fifty miles away from the burned country stretches, great flashes of brilliant light illuminated the sky when the smoke clouds made it dark in the forenoon like night.Also thick glowing red clouds interspersed with great flashes of light towered high into the sky.If a hundred volcanoes at that distance distance cast out thick red clouds said vivid flashes of light, i they would not by any means make a scene as sublime as this. Taking some chances the girls decided to go forward a little further and especially up a high rise rise of ground, and from there believed evidently that they saw a new fire breakingout far to the northeast of their observation.Mountains even appeared to be volcanoes sending up dense black smoke.One looked like a volcano in great action, and the distant land was hidden by a dense smoke through which a red flickering glow that extended to the floods edge could be seen.A shower of embers and a sulphurious smell brought by north winds caused the adventurers to change the course of their journey, and they went a mile to avoid the smoke fumes.One of the girls complained of violent faithness because of the he heat.After they all felt the heat more or less they retraced their steps back to the ruined city.The appearance of even the country was changed. Old ravines were filled with smouldering debris, and indeed the desolation was i ndescribable, and the scenes of the city of St Gertrude looked more ghastly than when it had been smoking and smouldering..In the face of the increasing danger of rising waters, the girlscouts in order to bring home great reports decided to make a careful investig t investigation of the sit uation in the "flood coast"districts north of the city of St Gertrude.They decided to try the trip on the raft as far as that point anyway.

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Onl t Onlythe girls decided to go, and have some of the soldiers dod the paddling.The raft therefore left the shore part of the ruined city at One P.M with the principal girlscout officials aboard, and six men to do the work. Penrod too proceeded on thatraft to determine whether there was danger in permitting the examin ation of the ruins of the country side further up to be made in so much as it was said a large number of corpses were l ing in the fire sweep.

As they were about to debark north of the city, a large quanity of mud from somewhere boiling hot flowed into the flood waters, and this accompanied by an enormous cloud of steam, and this mystery made it appear doubtful whether it would bepossible to examine the country north of St Gertrude because of the danger of being lost in the smoking smouldering wilderness. Therefore the party just then did not land, and the raft continued northward.In the direction of a northwest bend of the land the appearance of the distant conflagration was not so terrific.But the ground was covered with a thick layer of smoking ashes, and trees still standing were gaunt skeletons smoking and flaring like torches.After the raft passed up about two miles the trees began to one thicker and less burned, and the scene of desolation to their surprise gradually decreased as the raft approached a long stretch of land going northwestward.This showed evidence the fire had taken a northeasterly course.Here the raft proceeded to land and a small boat suddenly came out from the shore bearing persons who were refugees of the fire and begged for shelter and foood.But there was nothing on the raft.Gertrude learned there were some eight hundred people at this location, and a number of families had fled from their villiage in the path of the flames being forced to leave all their household property behind.The small streams at this point was filled with forest debris, and with hot mud which appealed to be congealing.where the mud came from no one knew.The river water had ceased to flow.Here many persons swam out to the raft and asked to be taken aboard, and Gertrude allowed as many as the raft could hold to come on.About two hundred and fifty persons however refused to leave,and the soldiers sternly ordered them to come on the raft. The trip was resumed, and the raft first returned toward St Gertrude.And here some of them landed.There was still a strong odor of burnt flesh in the city and survivors were trying to congregate in great numbers.Yet access to the main part of the city was difficult. The town was still surrounded by thick clouds from distant forest smoulders and at times it was impossible to see more than six feet breathing was quite difficult and even the soldiers showed signs of disquietude.

In company with a party of soldiers, and Penrod, Gertrude traveled across a part of the burned land as far a distance as time and heat from the smoulders would allow. They foru fortunately had a special relay of horses, and provisions enough to use if they wished to even cover sixty miles.They were the first of all persons to visit this region indeed since the forest fire passed through.They heard that a town called St Maris was a little further away east about fifteen miles southeast of St Gertrude but they couldn't see no trace of it even when taking observations from high ground. And the open country through which they traveled was not policed, and it was reported that where the forest fires had not swept lands of Glandelinian foraging parties were terrorizing the refugees, burning and pillaging.And that all refugees had been forced to arm themselves to protect themselves against these Glandelinian soldier robbers who have committed numerous assaults and with the wars devastations during all around have no fear of capture or of legal punishment.

Men womenand children have been killed in manyple places.Gertrude and her follow r followers met hundreds of fire refugees hastening to points of safty and refuge.every one ex e expected a terrible repetition of the disasters of the past.The wave of fire in the forest blaze was so sharply defined that a few few trees on the edge of the track was burned half way through on one side, and still smoking, and not a single bark was singed on the other side of these trees.The cyclonic fury of the conflagration was shown by the uprooting of half burned trees some of which had even been turned upside down,and were still smoking. Gertrude had witnessed several awful cyclonic storm alongs along the coasts yet nowhere did she observe the effects of the wind greater than she did in the path of these fires.

Gertrude learned that two strange men were approaching the city of St Gertrude that hour of night when the fire came..They were with a companion on horseback and who they were, and what they came for no one knew.The horses were killed by the fire hurricane and theheat and the first two men were thrown from their horses and badly burned..The third man escaped unhu t unhurt.. during the night the people of St Gertrude as they learned had been warned of the approach of the dangerous conflagration, and a great number of them had become panic stricken, and therefore many of the leading citizens had placed their families on board some east bound train s.Thoudands . thousands of violent detonations probably from explosions or bl asti g.blasting had been heard and they were accompanied by flashes that lit up the whole sky.The fire redoubled in its spread and a catastrophe was feared, but by morning the wind had changed its direction and the great horror occured.

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Even while the girls were trying to explore the burned areqa some distance from the city smoke had been hovering over the whole region all day, and this increased the fears of some of her followers, and they desired to turn back for fear of walking into some fire pit. The ashes was about two feet dde deep in some places and even smouldering. It was two oclock in the afternoon. The scene appeared as if the whole country was abound in active volcanoes. Gertrude Penrod, Jennie Turner and Angeline Richee proceeded onward, while they allowed the more fearsome to go back. When they reached Carlin Creek, Gertrude stopped her party declaring that it was unsafe to venture any nearer in that direction. After a short stop they proceeded in another direction, followed by twenty of the soldier escort who were to be employed in cutting down smoking obstructions if necessary. As they progressed on they saw far to the northeast what looked like a most tremendous volcanic eruption, and they headed with all possible speed to a high rise of ground to see what it really may be. It took a few minutes but then a haze hid that great cloud from view just as they topped the hill, and they than descended with the object of seeing if they could come across some more of the fugitives. They reached the base, and shortly afterwards their soldiers arived, and from the lower grounds they saw what appeared to be a number of tremendous eruptions. The sight was a terrible one indeed. Gertrude immediately climbed a tree that had escaped the ravages of fire, with Jennie and Angeline Richee following her. Penrod cut one smoking brush loose, while some of the others started running up the rise again, and Dolores went to sent to send them back. Immense quantities of fla falling brands were seen dropping into the curve of the flood se ction to the northward but far away, and the clouds of smoke were many miles in extent. Those on the tree top lookeight of those below in the gloom, but subsequently Gertrude and Angeline Richee were seen from th by their own comrad s comrades, apparently waiting to make another ascent up the hill.

They could observe that smoke rose in great clouds from the distant wing of the forest fire, and to the east a black cloud as if from a thousand volcanic eruptions arose above the horizon accompanied by strange glaring colors. The girls could see that the wind had w veered and a mantle of darkness was being swept westward across the burned landscapes ev enveloping their obxserva ion observation point. so heavy was the smoke that filled the air that breathing became a labor, and a fear of suffocation came upon those waiting below. They too were greatly alarmed and it was not untill Gertrude and her two comrades came down from the tree that confidence was restered. From the tree the girls had seen that the landscape far to the north over which the flames had rece tly recently swept had all the appearance of a gigantic blast furnace at which great forces were working. But they saw far off flames shooting skyward in sheets. For a few minutes the flames would hide away behind great clouds of smoke only to reappear with redoubled brightness. All that time since morning the atmosphere because of there being a northerly wind was full of smoke and the heat was indeed terrific. Life about a mile further on would be all but unbearable.

"I'll bet" said Jennie Tur er th" that the suffering among the refugees is extreme."

"I believe so" said Angeline Richee. "There are many rangers who are now I believe fighting their a way among the se debris of the forest ruins in their efforts to rescue the bodies of their members who may have died at their post of duty. The refugees told me Captian Consoul had been killed by a falling tree, and all strenous efforts are made to find him. At the same time of course these rangers are hoping to discover the remains of many others who had perished in the conflagr t conflagration."

"I can't understand how the places were taken unawares" said Gertrude. "It is said that with a feeling that appears now almost like a strong premonition of disaster many of the rangers had come to entertain a strange repugnance for their fire fighting duty. In this feeling even their leaders had shared. One had said to their men "You had better get out of the path of this inferno." I for one am getting out, and getting out as fast as I can."

"Oh you are just getting scared because we can't get it under control" said one of the men. "There is no need of deserting ourpost. We can breach it I'm sure." The other then had told him it is better to be safe than sorry."

"It was from this captian who witnessed the disaster a short time later from a neighboring elevation that one of the most graphic eye witnesses was obtained" said Penrod.

"Did they recover any of the dead rangers." asked Dolores.

"Hardly. As soon as the ruins of the burned forest land were cool enough, attended by a forest guide, the rescuers penetrated through the inferno. Under a fallen half burned tree were uncovered what were believed to be the remains of one of the officers and a private. Soldiers also made a similar effort to recover the bodies of Refugees. Though none of the bodies were able for identif ication thepos ition in which each were found left little doubt as to their ext actual idenity."

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In spite of the great imminent and terrible danger, the party of girlscouts and the boy, and the soldiers continued forward a greater distai distance more. The daring undertaking, and the narrow escape of these brave children and soldiers was probably one of the most unusual exploits ever taken by any person in their childhood, and probably have to say even beat most of the exploits even taken or made by Violet, and her sisters themselves. In spite of the threatening aspect of the smouldering and smoking fo es forest debris, they were determined to scout as far as it was possible without sucidal efforts. The parties were divided into a two sections. One led by Angeline Richee, went to a part of the country where forests were not yet consumed by fire, and soon had reached the summit of a high hill to make observations more closely. Six of the most stalwart girlscouts were the first to reach there, including Gertrude.

In the meantime the other party, being of the soldiers, and l by Lieutenant Kauffmann had proceeded north of a long stretch of pine and fir forests about half a mile to the northward of Gertrudes observation post. Fortunately this was in view of the distant forest fires further away. The lieutenant had just climbed a high fir tree, and getting some splinters in his hands for his pains, when some of his followers said pointing;

"My heavens look there."

He did and saw a column of smoke and fire as if belching from all the sections of the Inferal Regions, and a wind was blowing eastward.

"Get down quick you men and I'll follow" he said to the others. "I must signal to the girlscouts on the hill."

Directing his men below to make all haste back to the burned country stretch which was safer the lieutenant produced a signal flag and waved it to give warning to the girls on the hilltop. He couldn't succeed, and therefore he descended the tree, and despite the heat, and smoke ran all the way with only a few stops untill he managed to reach within speaking distai distance."

"For God's sake girls" get to the "burn strewn" quick if you would save your lives." he gasped. "The fire is spreading for these unburned forests and destruction is upon us."

At that instant from the direction of the forest fire, there was a tremendous crash apprarently as it seemed in the sky, and it sounded as if it was if a thousand thunder or rolls had been turned into one. As it died away some distant loud siren screamed some sort of a warning. Some of the soldiers almost immediately started running for the open at top speed.

Without cessation the whistle or siren from somewhere was blowing. Could it be from the flood waters. There was another rumble of an explosion, and the sky seemed filled with flames. A vast column of smoke rose more than a mile high. The girls were racing down the hillside as fast as it was possible. However by a fortunate turn in the wind the lives of all in the party were saved. The hot gases, smoke and winds instead of coming their way immediately moved more toward the northwest, but the flames du did not change their course.

Working among the trees with the purpose of making a breach to stop these fires were a few hundred forest rangers. These men became became panic stricken. They fled precipitately and were in hysterics. Under the circumstances however the presence of mind and bravery of the boy, and the girlscouts, and also their escorts was worthy indeed of the greatest praise. They refused to abandon their investigation work.

"If we die" one of them said "We will die on duty."

All the rest had spirit enough to greet this sentiment with a loud cheer. It surely was heart rending, and also served to shame the re rangers into a show of bravery. As rapidly as possible the soldiers made their way, the girlscouts being first. One of the girls stumbled, and they all waited untill she recovered, and then all went forward again. Half a mile was covered in this manner. Each minute the sky darkened, and the winds grew stronger raising clouds of hot ashes from the smouldering landscapes. The heat was becoming beyond, comprehension.

"We got to be careful here" said Penrod as the dust and ashes in the air made breathing hard labor. "We must go with our backs to the winds or we'll get some fiery ashes into our faces. Good thing our uniforms are wet....."

Finally however the distance was covered even through this fiery ordeal, and it was discovered after all that their investigations would have to be tem porarily abandoned.

"Heavy "seas" of fire were sweeping tward these forests. It was with the great st greatest d f difficulty that the parties managed to reach the open spaces for they had nearly got lost. But nevertheless it was accomplished safely and just in time. Straight out over the blasted landscapes and tward the flood ran the fugitives, then all eyes watched the progress of the fire, indeed the grandest and the most awe inspiring sight ever witnessed by any one. In the center of the conflagration was an inner column of fire that rolled apparently like acloud and extended perpendicularly into the air. About it was tremendous volumes of smoke that could be penetrated by the eye only when the terrible flames burned the brightest. Even several new conflagrations seemed to have been formed , and from them smokie smoke was pouring high into the air. As the flames came down to a river great clouds of steam were raised, and the sinister hissing could be heard amid the roar of the conflagra lo conflagration.

When the girlscouts and their escorts were beyond the danger zone; they went up on another high rise of ground and took an observation. They were still close under this column of death. They were as close as possible without courting destruction. All about the water of a stream was boiling, and the steam that came up into the air was so dense as to make it all but impossible to see anywherr any here anywhere. Again they made a run for it, and as it was seen that the wind had shifted the danger from them, Gertrude was for going back to the spot they had first saw this manefestation. But the rest were opposed tobit, as Jennie said;

"Terrible as the fire is now, it may be mild in comparison wh with that which may occur later on. And it is now too dangerous a task to retrace our steps, and it seems better for us to go back to the home."

And this they did, reaching it at four oclock in the afternoon. When they got there, they found the place in a state of panic. The day had been one of t terror and wild alarm there. To them the very earth had seemed to lose its very nature and was tu ning into fire. Tward thrm them the fires had seemed to pu pour its storm of death. And the culmination had come at an early hour in the afternoon when there came the sound of an explosion so terrible, that the walls of one of the wooden buildings of the Home yards had been partly shaken down, and the force of men and scouts had fled into theopen yards. The excited girls told Gertrude on her return that a thick heavy cloud, lit up by flames and sparks rose high into the air and stretched far overhead. Most of the girls and boys had become panic stricken. Many of the more timid boys and girls had prepared to embark on the raft, and it was with difficulty that they were eventually reassured by the more better and those of more presence of mind. To them the entire aspect of the country in the forested highlands and low landshad changed into seething blazing infernoes like volcanic eruptions. Smoke had filled the air darkneing the sky. The wind was strong and ashes was borne in the grounds steadily from the burned territories. The very waters of the flood as Gertrude observed were lashed to a fury and words were utterly impossible to describe the actual conditions. Disaster was even then expected at any moment, and Gertrude did not know whether it was best to have all go on the raft and speed away or remain at the Home and watch the dreadful conflagration.

"The fires are terrible in the extreme" said Nettie Kormann. Th"The clouds have advanced even untill they reached here."

"The spectacle is appalling beyond words"said Nettie Kauffmann another girlscout. "When this was first seen our whole force was thrown into a frenzy of panic, while overhead the glowing fiery clouds caused a lot of heat. Two of our bo s boys penetrated the north of the land as far enough eastward to get a glimpse of the fire from there. They re ported that the entire stretch of forested land as far as eye can reach is blazing with fire. They said that as the clouds of smoke would lift the flames could be seen and nothing could be done for us. We cannot go forth unless we chance the water."

Never before did any one go through an adventure as these girlscouts did. The observations they tried to take at the risk of their lives was unusual, While Gertrude was trying to encourage her followersbthers was a succession of deep sullen detonations from the forest fire region that sounded as if they might have come from great guns belonging to a mighty fleet. The scene was indeed fiffif fittingly dramatic, another of those climacteric situations which in suc c succession characterized the whole series of events in their adventures. They had witnessed tragic details fit for the novelist of the future, who could have used his literary art to depict for millions the destruxtion of Abbieann by flood, the devastation of a whole state by flood and fire. It is such details in which a human hea touch unites with the suj sublimity of this dreadful war devastation that can make the whole tale of these great catastrophes one of tathralling interest.

"When the Glandelinian rebrobates plunged the whole Calverinian State into this devastating horror"said Penrod to Gertrude as they entered the grounds, "Emperor Vivian gave his word that he would redeem Calverinia from this desol ation and with the help of God crush Glandelinia, that he could and would provide all the armies necessary to do this, by through whic he would bring a like disasterupon Glandelinia in due time."

"That seems kind of out of place"said Angeline Richee."I know Emperor Vivian gave his word on that, Violet, and her sisters told me so too, but how can it be possible. I heard he gave his word that through this disaster he would set up a new Empire and that wayward Glandelinia would be forced to repent and return to Her Mother Country. He said that the Glandelinian armies are commanded by cruel and most wicked generals, but he declared Abbioannia is a Kingdom that will never be destroyed by Glandelinia or any other ba nation, that it shall break Glandelinia in pieces and consume her kingdoms, and shall be made an example before the world. But how can it be is the question?"

"But Emperor Vivian will keep his word inviolate even as he promisshed"said Gertrude.

"I can't believe it"said Angeline Richee."If he can accomplish what he said then I'll believe it only when he does. While before He had been carrying our his past purposes the Glandelinian generals had continued their neferious and wicked work, and what has happened. No I believe it only when he does it."

"Abbioannia's name has been defamed and reproadhed reproached by Glandelinia and all her representives throughout the war and long before." said Mildred. Glandelinia has even challenged the world, and defiantly bid all nations dare interfere and help the besiegers take Vivian Wickey, and defiantly told Emperor Vivian through letters that he could notput an army on the field large enough th at would maintain success for the christian cause. The Manleys have succeeded in destroying hosts of men and officers ofour armies, andour losses have been terrific. They say out generals known as Concontinian Aronburg Jack Evans and such like Walter John Harrows, Rassendale and gladerlina have proved their ability under the most adverse conditions. If there is any hope for our cause it will be through these genrals. The remnant of their armies have been with these generals in their trials, and have stood firm and faithful to the cause.."

"It may be those whowon't let Glandelinia go the limit in those disasters, and to vindicate Abbieannias cause before all creation. The vindication of Abbioannia's holy cause is of far greater importance than anything. And Glandelinia is guilty of these disasters for I know it. She can't win fair, and s she tries to win foul."

"I'll bet it was Saten who caused these wicked Glandelinian Aurthorities to command the Glandeliniangenerals to bring on these awful calamities, and call it war, and therefore it is the same person as well as Glandelini-a that is fully responsible for the evil results of the war among all parts of our great nation, and to bring apprehension throughout the whole world."This from Jean.

"The Abbieannian nation"said Penrod reminds me of God's chosen people rep remaining firm to His cause. This nation is and will be blessed and with God's help Epror Vivian will provide somehow or other for the full recovery of Calverinia, and her southern sister states and provinces in general, for the sake of the cause. I'm sure there is no other nation under heaven which has went through ordeals like Calverinia has and stood up yet to face the foe. The vindication of Abbieannia are therefore absolutely essential to the rec r ecovery of Calver n Calverinia. And such vindication will for ever establish full confidence of all nations on the o earth. When thisconflict is over it will be both the names of Abbie God and Abbioannia that all nations will exalt and praise. It will be the names of Our Blessed Lord and Abbieannia that all christ ian people will honor and priase for ever, when they known and learn of a wicked cause that has been crushed and trampled in the dust. Every one will make a joyful noise unto Our Blessed Lord throughout all lands. They all will sing forth the honor of His name Name, make His praise most glorious. All the eart h shall then glorify His Name and shall sing unto Himm, the they shall sing to His Name."

"If the good result comes true yes"said Mildred."But how can we win I'd like to know. It seems impossible. The world is full of sorrow over this dreadful sqy squabble and its dire and dreadful results, everywhere in our lands there is a hell of suffering and horror beyond words, sickness proe produced by disasters, war crime done by the foe, calamities and wholesale death, "the red plague" con suming allour beautiful woods, about f beautiful woods and floods destroying hundreds ofour towns and destroying all communications, and even the armies are blocked and you say that we will win. Glandelimia is the Mother of all these disasters, theinstigator and prosecutor of all these war horrors, and Glandelinia holding out so good at Vivian Wickey, Cromer Andrean, and Crowley defies the whole world, and wrongfully charges Abbieannia with being respon sible for all the disasters of war, and it is said the governments of Glandelinia lets the Glandelinian generals and their armies go on unhindered."

"Yes but Mildred the war is young yet, and our Governments do not intend to giveup. Look how they are mobolizing up north."

"But what good does that do?" asked Mildred.

"Plenty"said Jane Melfort."Glandelinia made these disasters to her own future total depravity, that Abbieannia can w and will recover all portions of her devastated states and thereby vindicate her name, Glandelinia will then be shorn of her invasion and herpower, all her organizations destroyed, the enormous population of child slaves freed, and relieved from oppression, and if any living be restored to their parents, and then under the righteous Sign of Christ , Abbioannia will be the victor in our Holy Cause. Glandolinia like Saten has gone her length in this unfair way of fighting the war, and now sooner or later Glandelinia will vindicate her cause before all the world. In doing this she will demonstrate her great power to the complete destruction of all of Glandeliniaspowerful army organizations. All nations will come to a knowledge of the whole truth and will know that Abbioannia is the nation that can stand up against all wicked array, as all her people are of one good and Holy religion, and that it is impossible for her to lose the war."

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"That seems a miracle." said Mildred."You Jane dear have always argued with me on that subject.How can the mobolized armies get down from the noth north. There are no railroads running, because of the flood, to take chances by sailing the flood in boats is suicide, there cannot be any pontoon bridges, and where there are no floods the "Red Plague"is burning up all the land, the Glandelinian armies are getting stronger,andportions of Calvorinia is becoming depopulated. If we do win then it is a miracle."

"Our southern portions are open"said Penrod himself.Did you not know that Mildred.Armies can be transported by sea in our big warships and armed transports guarded by torpedo boat destroyers and submarines and so forth.Therefore that which is of paramount importance now to our cause is for us to learn the truth concerning the mutiation, and the purposes of our Government. And besides forest fire cannot last forever.God some day willsurprise us by sending rain. Did you not know it rained a little yesterday.And now in this time of comparative defeat as it seems to you, we will some day as Joan said see the destruction of Glandelinian d organizations.Emperor Vivian has and is still making provision, and he will put complete action into everything.It is the duty then for all of u un boy and girlscouts throughout the whole land, including our beloved Vivian Girls to provide themselves with all instructions, to watch and precipiate into every event that occurs, to continue to take their stand on the side of Jehovah and His Abbisannian nation, keep up the Masons and all intentions of the Faithful and with God's help we will surely see our side come through with Colors flying, and Glandelinia on her knees begging for mercy."

"Why Gertrude"cried Angeline Richee rushing up and catching Gertrudes hand, "I'm am glad to see you back.And you look so hot and dusty.Have you discovered much....?????"

"Yes, and I'm real glad to see you too Angeline." said Gertrude returning the hearty shake with no less heartiness.I"Indeed I am.You seem to have changed too too.You are dressed in an awfully stylish uniform.I'll have to go and change uniforms as I'm going to ask you to go out scouting with me and I'd be ashamed to go out riding with you.How do you like a long tour through the burned forest region like I've had this thornings."

"It's a splendid ideaGertrude"answered Angeline Jennings as they walked out of the yards and made tward the road."Such adventures are very nice and there is more amusement in it than remaining here all the time."

Gertrude took a stealthy side glance at her friend and companion.Oh these little girls.Some of them read characters with an intuition, whichhhs humbles the widest experience.

"Yes.But I thought you were out scouting yesterday."

"So I was but today I was kept busy keeping the rest cooled down, that I haven't had the chance to go out yet."

"You look heavy around the eyes as if you stayed up late last night Angeline"said Gertrude.

"Yes, the heat, and then the fears among the smaller scouts"answered Angeline Jennings, puzzled to find that she was annoyed by the appearance of the reddening sky in the northeast, the dar mass of half night being produced by so much smoke."How have you been doing since you left with your girlscouts and Fenrod this morning.?"

"Been doing nothing but watching the fire.I made a bad start, but now I'm doing better.You see Angeline I'm planning to remain here till everything blows over and Jennie Turner proposes to go on alone for Evangeline St Claire. She's going by baloon when she secures one."

"Indeed."

"Yes, I hope it will be a successful trip for her."

There was a few earnest sympathic words from Angeline, and then Gertrude said-

"Here's our horses.Jump on yours Angeline."

Miss Jennings noticede strange expression on Gertrudes face, it was though the girlscout superior had recieved a blow.Now there was nothing unusual to produce these facts but usuallly there is something more per potent than words. Manor manner expression sympathy or the want of it is easilly seen in many cases and because of Jennie Turner being forced sooner or later to go away Angeline Jennings felt blue.She fell into a train of reflection suggested by this coming incident, and while Gertrude with the lively interest of a girlscout took note of everything in her surroundings, Angeline Jennings maintained silence till at a signal from the escort escort, they stepped at a road crossing.

"Here we are at a mess tent.Hope hop off and we'll just be in time for supper."

Walking to a large tent, Gertrude pointed to a cheerful two story wooden bu l building.

"Is that your headquarters, Gertrude?"

"No, that is where I sometimes eat;all the upper rooms are belonging to the boy scout officers...""

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As Gertrude had re a remarked they were in time for supper, at which meal, owing to the fact that Elsie Ruth Mac-Whirther and Mary Florinia with other girlscout officers were present, Angeline Jennings worried about the coming departure of Jennie Turner was content to eat little and contributed her share mostly to the conversation by an occasional word.After supper Gertrude proposed the adventure.Angeline Jennings, and the others were delighted with the suggestion and an hour later fourteen girlscouts were close to the edge of the great fire scene again.An Gertrude it must be confessed was somewhat astonished at her surroundings.

The conditions of the land failed to impress her favorably,as the and the sight of the walls of smoke, the blazing trees, and the moving flames did not suit her ideas at all.

"Is this a first class forest fire, Angeline Jennings!"

"Yes, that is it is a first class variety."

"Would you like to go ahead a little closer."

"No indeed"said the other girls, their disgust entering into and distorting their sentence, and they wished at that moment, that they were back in the cozy station armies.The smoke pall presently lifted, and for an hour or so they enjoyed or tried to enjoy, the progressive actions of the conflagration, and to find out how their whole troop could outwit this horrior and get to Evangeline St Clare.But they found it weary work.The atmosphere too hot, and smoky soon gave them a headache.No one seemed perfectly happy.Gertrude glanced at them curiously.

"I'm glad we don't have to make a forced attempt at it." she thought."If this whole business isn't hells region, then I'm pretty nutty.We are in hell or something like it without being touched by ...e."

"Say girls"she resumed aloud, as a smoke sheen obscured everything again."I'm getting apprehensive, and nervious, and if none of you have any objection, I'll go further on and alone and see what I can observe."

"Certa Certainly Gertrude.But be careful.You're going into danger you know."

"I'll be careful, but you girls stay within hearing distance, and if I'm in trouble I'll give you my signals and you follow the calls."

"All right Gertrude."

Gertrude went forward to follow her course.From the moment she had left her other followers she had had no experience with the fires to use her own exore expressions.Now that she was this far out she was determined to make the best of the opportunity, and try and discover a way through or bust.Nor did the questions of ways and means trouble her.She had with her only a boy scout and that was "crasy James Green." In the matter of adventure Gertrude like every well constituted girlscout was of unfailing resources.

"Say"she beganto the boy escort"I' I'm going out to the woods not yet touched by fire.How will I get back to my comrades without signals."

"You can take a carriage." said the facetious boyscout,"If you don't care about riding a horse."

"I'm not asking for any silly remarks Master Green.I mean how will I get back without having to make any signals if I happen to get lost."

"I do not knoq know."

Without waiting to say more Gertrude sallied forth and cast her eyes about in search of a high tree, to use as an observation post.The forest indeed was brilliant with the light of the distant conflagration.Yet every variety of tree seemed to be in the neighborhood, but not the kind she wanted.Two pines across the road sandwitched them between a big oak, and stretching to each side were fir trees and hemlocks and other pines of many kinds, all thick and close together.Gertrude took a long look at one of the tallest pines.she was impressed not favorably indeed with the height of each.

"Phsew"he shesu muttered."They make me feel like tal taking a pledge for life."

She ad scarcely made this refledt reflection when her attention was arrested by a small boy, who coming through the forest had a smalll bundle under his arm, and seeing her and the boy scout paused, and started to change his course.Gertrude saw that the lad looked lonesome.She had while looking at the trees dismounted from her horse, and therefo re with a hop and a bound, she had crossed the road and noiselessly placed herself behind the little refuges.The object of her attention was a lad of a little more than ten.He was neatly but scantly attired.The sleeves of his jacket and pants were patched, and his shoes were open at the toes.The face was beautiful, beautiful with some hint of refinement all the more beautiful perhaps too that it was touched and softened by sadness. But the eyes large and brown---how they looked tward the fires. Gertrude was satisfied with the inspection.she walked up alongside the boy, and sat to staring at the glare herself.

"Is that fire going to burn us all up, little girl!" said the boy.

"What fire!!!!!!!!!!"

"The one we are seeing."

"Not if I know it sit won't.How far is it led!"

"Twenty miles northeast of here little girl...."

"You needn't talk to me as if I was a small baby." said Gertrude."I'll tell you what I'll do sonny,I'll take a look at the fire from that tree, and I'll give you a dime if you'll tell me from below what you see.What is your name?"

"Thank you little girl, my name is Hannsen Callis,"and Callis received Gertrude's ten centpiece with unmistakable signs of grattitude.

"Ajd And my name is Evangelinie Aronburg,, they call me Gertrude Angolino, drop that "little girl" and call me Gertrude.I'm glad to meet a little boy like you."

Callis here smiled, and indeed the twinkle in his eye evinced that for all his sadness he was naturally a merry lad.

"I think Miss Gertrude"he put in"That it might be better if you collaeget girls of your own class to talk and go with you.I am too low before you as I know you now from your name.You are the famous girlscout leader, the noice of the great general Conceptinian Aronburg."

"Just just listen to him"said Gertrude, apostrophi ing the big pine trees:"talking to me as if I was the King himself----My Hansen, I'm merely a girlscout officer..everybody is the same to me even if I have a high rank.what does that matter?"

"But your followers mightn't like it,"said Ho Hansen, very much astonished and embrassed at being in conversation with such a great girlscout.

"I don't think they would care either "said Gertrude.

"But your parents and Uncle wouldn't like it."

"My Uncle is in command of a northern army, and my parents are in heaven." said Gertrude."And what is more you are just as good off as most boys of your size, and its my opinion you haven't been in these burning woods long either.I took a good look at you before I came up, and I'll bet bet anything you are not used being alone like this either."

"Your are right Miss Aronburg;I've been fleeing from this fire for over two months.Papa died in battle; and mamma is gone too .My little sister is only living and she was burned badly by the fire."

"Your little sister too?"

"Yes Miss Aronburg, little Nell has been very badly burned, but now she's almost wellshe's in charge of the kind sisters at St Gertrudes Orphan Asylum. I was trying to find my way there, and learned that because of the fire the place has been abandoned, and I docnot know where they have taken her."

Instead of continuing the conversation, Gertrude caught Hansen by the shoulders and bending down stared straight in into his eyes .

"See here boy"she began after a pause do you remember when you got a good square meal the last time?"

"I had a pretty good meal yesterday morning.But to day Miss Aronburg, I've had luck.This morning I had to flee for miles from the fire, and then got stuck."

"On the latin verb or a pitchfork or what?" quderied Gertrude/.

The boy laughed again.

"You are speaking in the term of a newspaper boy or something, Miss Aronburg.

"Oh I see."And you didn't get a square meal to day nor a yesterday either.?"

"I had a small bowl of sop soup and one piece of bread at noon."

"How much did You pay for it?"

"I didn't pay anything.I got it at some small refugee camp."

"Good night.and what are you doing away from the camp."

"I got lost."

"Well say Hansen how do you like pancakes or fried eggs or anything?"

"Very much?" exclaimed the boy with great enthusiasm."

I thought you meant something by looking toard a camp not long ago.It's the same wayswith me too"continued Gertrude gravely."I'm uncommonly fond of anything that is good to eat,and so are all my followers but I can't stand anything sweet.Sugar I hate.Now I'll treat.You go in and order all you want in that small town there that is if people are still in it.I'll go with you.Here's somemoney.It's a dollar and threeee quarters.Is that enough?"

"I would like to take it"said Hansen wistfully, as he glanced at the money. "But I can't from a girlscout.It isn't fair.I should be treating you if I had the money."

"But it is fai r." answered Gertrude. "You are worth as much to me any day, and even more.Oh Hansen you don't know how tired I am of being stuck here when I should be at Emperor Vivians, or my uncles army.That is all I have been worrying about for the last threede days.It's terrible.It's got so bad that I feel like praying for the end of the world to come.".

After further words, Hansen consi consented to take seventy five cents.H e was about to enter the house in the town, when Gertrude took from his arm the bundle.

"What are you up to now Miss Aronburg."?

"I'll keep this bundle for you, while you are eating.And I and my boy companion will scout around for a while."And without waiting for remonstrance Gertrude darted away.

"Here it is." shoutad Gertrude suddenly putting her head in at the store to be right."The fire is moving away from the town and we are safe."

"Forest fires..here?" exclaimed a portly gentleman of a old age, holding a glass of milk in suspense.

"Don't know which way it is going sir.There is always new courses in a fire. and the flood won't reach us either."

The gal gentleman smiled and came out to look.Gertrude repaired to the next storehouse and here made the same announcement..He saw some kind of a person sneaking around the place and she sternly ordered him out, showing her badge of surthority. Then nothing dauntr she took up a position at the nearest street corner, and exerted her eloquence on every passer by.

"I didn't get any news into that resturant over there." shemurmured."I think I'll try it or otherwise the people wer will be leaving for nothing."

She peered in, and then was about to announce it, when she saw the same character sneaking past a counter.Gertrude with a sliding word, jumped over the counter, and with her astra drawn made a rush at him.The man immediately beat it out of the door, and presently every man in the resturant was in a pursuit.Gertrudes pluck and heruniform had caught their fancy.However in a few moments the suspicious man had gotten away, and seeing he was gone and the people on their guard Gertrude hurried away to rejoin Hansen. She found her little friend seated alone at a large table i with a plate of fried eggs and a few pieces of bacon before him.

"I believe I'm hungry myself!" Observed Gertrude, helping herself liberally to Hansens dish."Order a dozen more, Hansen and I'll help you eat them."

"A dozen!"

"Yes."

"Say Miss Arronburg I'll bust."

"No you won't.I'll eat what you leave them.I'll pay for them."

"Where is your camp?"

"About a mile from here.I told the people when I met that the forest fire won't touch this town.I tried to catch some one but he got away.

"You don't mean that man that wears a gray coat and a black hat!"

"Yes."

"Well you are the strangest girl I ever met.There is not a single girl or boy who da re dares chase him.They are afraid of him awfully.He's crazy.He lost all he had at Ashbeam while in this town at the time, even his family perished and his mother and father, and his loss made him go mad."

"Is that so?"asked Gertrude."I thought he was a malicious character.When he saw me rushing for him he ran off before I could see what he would would do."

"Miss Gertrude I'd like to join your Company."

"Glad you like to Hansen.Go on and order more eggs."

"Thank you Miss Aronburg but I've had enough, really too much already."

"No room I see are you on ice cream and cake?"

"All right.But I thought you said you didn't like sweets."

"The ice cream and cake is for you.I'll take the Cream but not the cake" said Gertrude."

"Let me treat this time, Miss Aronburg.There is a nice drug store around the corner."

Gertrude however did thetreating..... As Gertrude paid the billi bill she glanced at the clock over the counter.It was close to ten minutes to five. "Goodness gracious Hansen I forgot all about him.Oh Gracious."

"Who Miss Aronburg!"

"That boyscout who was with me.And I told the fool to keep me in sight.I left him across there in the street corner.It seems he's gone."

"Why I saw the boy go down that street on his horse.He took yours with him."

"Then Hansen I'll tell you a secret."

"What Miss Aronburg." cried Hansen breathelessly, for he was impressed with his girl companions face.

"If the forest fire should turn this way after all I'm lost.I can not run it on foot, though I could on my horse."

"Do you not know where your camp is?"

"Yes, but I'd not be able to get there before the fire if it should come this way.I'm surely lost now.Wait till I find that James green.I'll surely horsewhip him within an inch of his life for leaving me like this the fool."

"Well you are the queerest girlscout general I ever met..."

"I don't see anything queer agout about it.I'm lost if the fire should turn, and yet I'll try to make for the camp on foot.Want to come along."

"Yes, but who is to take care of me."

"I will"said Gertrude."

Hansen laughed musicaliy, looking upon him now no one would hardly recognise the sad eyed boy of the previous hour.

"It's so funny Miss Aronburg, to hear of you being forced to take care of me a refugee.

"Where did you sleep nights?"continued Gertrude."

"I haven't had any regular place since we lost everything in the floods I and my sister are flood and fire refugees.I tried to do many things till she got sick.Before the fire came to us we had a little house in the country."

"In the country!" ejaculated Gertrude.

"That is where it was.It was a great big half broken down country house.All Little Nell and I were there, and happy as larks.She was just the best sister a boy could ever have,and kept the rooms so bright and cheerf l cheerful that I used to be so glad to come home after looking around all day for provisions. She could cook and sew like a grown person I tell you, although she is only eight years and a half."

"She paid for you ?" Gertrude demanded.

"Well in the beginning we have had a little over a hundred dollars left by poor papa.But Glandelinian vandals stole it from us and we had nothing left.Then I had to go foraging for food and fuel. And in spite of all I could hardly scrape up enough to get anything to eat.I didn't mind so much for my self butpoor little Nellie kept on getting thinner and paler."

"Didn't you have any friends"

"No, Miss Arenburg.We were hiding in enemy's territory.Glandelinians were all about us."

"Then Nellie took sick didn't she?"

"Oh the fire cameup and surprised us in the house, and she got burned while we fled for a deep and wide ravine.Rangers found us and they took her to the good sisters at St Gertrudens She is no w quite well.But I don't know what to do.I am not able to support myself, and i can't bear to think of poorlittle Nell starving right under my eyes."

They were in the forest again, standing under a big trees during this conversation, and Gertrude could observe the signs of tears upon her little new friends face, and she muttered something about the Glandelinians under her breath,and almost wished they were in ---well lets not say it now.

"Well"said Gertrude, chocking down her emotion, when I return to camp we'll hold a counsil of war to night before we go to sleep.Eventually if I don't come back soon my troops will beout looking for me.Do you know any good road around here."

"There's a turnpike across the glen over there."

Gertrude glanced at the glen dissdubtfully.It would be a good trap if the fire was to cameup suddenly.

"No sonny not that we, Never.We'll continue down the road I came on.But it'll take me three hours to get there."

"The camp is four miles from you say."

"Yess"

"We can walk it there in two hourss" said the boy."

"We can try..."

"What sounds better."

Indeed Gertrude succeeded in astonishing more people of that eventful evening of the fourth of August than within the whole period of time any girlscout that ever was under observation. None questioned her however, and by the looks of things the boy surely realised she was a superior of all.

"We want a clean room of our headquarters, and breakfast at six to morrow morning." said Gertrude to the orc orderly, who had incontinuously awoke.

"We have no rooms in advance for the rooms Miss Arenburg." said the boy scout.

"I didn't didn't say any such thing. I said we wanted rooms for ourselves and breakfast in the morning." to herself"I wonder if he has a wheel loose in his head or is the heat affecting him."

"Very defiant Miss, said the absent minded boy."

"What" said Gertrude as she pushed himself aside, and went in followed b y the refuge.Others laughed, and Gertrude was only a soldier directed him to show the boy a room opposite to her own.Boyscout aide-decamps are boys of large experience inmany directions, hence notwithstanding the late hour, and the fact that his superior had brought in with her a half ragged stranger, the aroused aide-decamp was so taken with the honest little face before him that he showed the boy the room without asking any questions. I am bound to tell the reader however, that our two friends availed themselves of the rooms in good styles.

No sooner had Gertrude put on her field uniform, than the boy picked up a pillow from the bed in his room,and comingoutside proposed a game of "catch." Therefore stationing themselves at opposite corners, the two tossed the pillows gently at first till suddenly growing good and interested in their work, they began to throw with great energy..finally Gertrude got the other pillow, and before long they came to a terrific pillow fight hurling their downy missiles and dodging about in a manner that sent the blood totheir cheeks and caused the eyes of the two of them to d dance with great excitement indeed.The children who have no heart for pillow fighting are probably only fit for treasons, stratagems and spi spoils; let no such child be trusted.The contest waxed fierce and many other boys and girls seeing what was going on started themselves and there started a battle royal-every one fighter warrier every moment.Finally

at the hight of the battle with nearly every one in the building at it, Gertrude pillow in hand, charged upon Penrod who too had come to battle her.There was a rapid interchange of blows much movement, and noise of little feet,and a swaying fr m from side to side of the room, till at length with a well directed blow Gertrude sent both her antagonists Penrod, and Hansen together sprawling upon the bed proving she was a strong girl indeed.It was then that outside the game had stopped and they heard Jean knocking on the door.

"Gertrude, Gertrude"she was calling. I m jeans green is not back.We'll be in for it now."

Gertrude threw open the door, her frail hair all dishelevled and found herself facing Jean who seemed excited and nervious."

"Good evening Jean.Won't you walk inHand join the game?"

"I beg your pardon Miss Aronburg, but I thought to inform you that James Green didn't come back."

Gertrude looked surprised.I

"I suspected that when I lost him"she said.

Jean now understood the situation, the light that shot from her eye,and the smile that curled about her lips evinced that she readily understood the whole thing.

"It isn't that bad." said Gertrude."We'll come back.My new friend and Penrod over there got separated.Good night Jean. Girls and boys"she continued.It's near taps .The games over.Everybody prepares for bed.James"to another boy, "Get a squad and go out and hunt for Mr Green.When you find him bring HIM to me."

"What a pity"said Penrod as the door closed."that that boy is so crazy. He must be brought to reason.He steps on peoples feet and then does not even back.He must have accompanied you Miss Arenburg."

"Yes indeed"assented the fairies boy."

"It's the old story my boy, some boys gets spoiled once they start in a rank of troops and James is a foreigner.He hasn't right ideas of proper discipline.Now if he had been the right kind of a boy he'd have stayed with Miss Aronburg."

"Yes "assented Hansen,"and she'll tell him something to morrow."

"Just so, and it is the kind like him that spoopoils a gorgious time for us.It's a mistake for our country to allow foriegners in the army unless they are known better.It seems to me if a boys good, whether he is foriegn or not, the best thing he can do is go into battle and die properly.Of course we have foreigners amongourfolkes, and if he is he ll take his punishment believe me."

"Where did you get that idea Penrod"as a sk asked Gertrude.

"I do not know but I have thought frequently of that.You see if a boy or girlscout doesn't do anything bad, he's bound to be pretty happy, then if he dies in the war he'll go to heaven, where there is just no end of fun.g"

"Most of us have awful troubles and perils, Gertrude."

"Well then, the sooner we get to heaven the better.This is a terrible war we are experiencing.You know how many of our followers have died already since we were in the army.Come let us say our prayers,and then we will get to bed and forget it."

CHAPTER TWELVE.

IN WHICH JAMES GREEN THE BOYSCOUT PRODIGAL RETURNS.
EXPERIENCES IN THE STRICKEN REGION.
IN WHICH ONE BOY ASTONISHES AND HORRIFIES GERTRUDE ANGELINE....

When h Miss Manson awoke the next morning, he stared in no little surprise at a girlabout in long golden curly hair who was standing before a mirrow in the hall outside his door and surveying herself with evident complacency complacency.

"Why Gertrude"he called out,"How you have changed yourself-or is the whole thing a dream."?

"Yes I am a girlscout"answered the girl with her customary modesty"It's a nice thing though that I have not transformed myself.What are you staring at!" she asknd as she had turned around.

"But you surely are not Miss Aronburg.?"

"I sure am not.I'm different entirely."

"But you've got my clothes on."

"Yes don't I look fine in them.I'm go going on a long hunt to see ware the enemy is."

"You'd look swell in anything Miss.But in the meantime how am I to dress?"

"Take a new uniform which has been offered you." came the sententious answer, as the girl turned her back to the morri mirror and crained her neck in a vain effort to see how she looked from that point of view.

"Whose uniform is it?"

"Mine.You can put it on."

"No I won't miss, you girlscouts have been too good to me already.I do not want to take another thing from you."

"All right then, if you don't want to put y your new uniform on you'll have to stay in bed for a whole day .I and Gertrude are going to leave in about ten or twenty minutes for breakfast.

"I won't put them on."

"You've got to.See here didn't you tell Miss Aronburg last night, that you would take her advice .?"

"Yes, but then you know Miss——"

"Never mind the rest.My first advice is to put those togs of mine on.They are a pretty good suit, but I've got plenty of uniforms that is just as good, but those are the only one in the whole camp that will fit you."

The girl as usual had her way, and w axed enthusiastic over the new boys appearance. She summoned Gertrude.

"My Manson, but you sure look grand.You see you are rather skinny or thin from so much fasting,and your own suit made it plain to everybody.Now you look like one of us for good."

Indeed the appearance of the boy had greatly improved.even to make it more stronger his face had changed for the better, the eyes shone with a with a joyious twinkle, the lines of misery and distress and fear had softened and the refinement and delicacy also had come back. Two months a refugee.

Who would believe of it of that gentle refugee boy.Doubtless his little guardian angel could have easily as explained the mistr mistery, and also from that explanation would have largely entered the sweet prayers and tender sympathy and elevating influence of his dear sisters love. Gertrude did not hear any guardian angel say this to her, but it came to her, all the same as she gazed upon the boy who was blushing under the scrunty of the two superior girlscouts, the other whom he did not think of asking her name but she was Angeline Richee.

"Master Manson"said the other,"I want your sister to see you in good form.It will do her more good than all the medicine in the world,when you walk in on her the way you are now.We are going to have brigh breakfast in a few minutes,and then we are going to try and move our troops down with the raft again, as the float has cleared somewhat.Then to morrow you'll be signed and sworen in as a scout.But we'll have to try your mettle first."

"That is a nice plan Miss, but where is my sister?I wish I could see her first.She is gone."

"Gone"exclaimed"The two girls."Why you are mistaken.If she was it would spoil the whole plan.There would be no joy at all.She's here in our camp."

"But how could you tele her."

"I could easily tell her anyhow, even if you didn't know it, and at first I had decided to fetch her around to see you too.Why I've found she's been in our girlscout force for two months.You'll be glad to come."

"But I never knew she was in the camp.I don't know how she ever did it,"

"Pshaw, that's nothing at all.You'd be surprised.She came here herself. Jennie Turner took her in at Crosbys farm where she was picked up as a refuge there."

Manson wrung the hands of the two girls, and so bemsed over with joy that both Gertrude and Angeline felt as good themselves. About an hour later, they were walking along a vast road in the on up nearest the home, h when a little girl with streaming black hair, and shining eyes and in a yellow waist, blue dress, and red jacket came running tward them. She was uniformed like the rest.

"Oh Miss Aron Aronburg, and Miss Richee"she cried, dashing straight at them , then seeing the boy the little girl suddenly checked herself, and sprang back blushing.And Manson with great tact put an end to the surprise by catching little sister and saluting her in true brotherly fashion.

"And now Nellie"he said archly-"Let me introduce you to to the girlscout you were first addressing.She's the best——"

"Oh I say indeed"broke in Gertrude——you needn't begin that way now.I'm just Gertrude Angeline to all, and you are Miss Nellie Chaner.Glad to see you so early, Nell." and Gertrude shook h hands with great coolness.

"Oh Miss Aronburg;

"Gertrude Angeline" interlop interpolated the girlscout leader.

"Gertrude"she went on, accepting the correction,"But I really thought you were out scouting last night till this morning."

"I was, and came back sooner than expected."And then despite Gertrudes protest, Manson insisted upon describing at length the adventures of th e proceeding night.It was a surprising time for Gertrude.But as she sat on the long log onto which Nell had conducted them, she bore it with what meekness she could since summon for the occassion.The little child who faced the two superiors was very much like Manson,with a beautiful oulmost refined face, but yet so pale and and thin.Injury, horror from her recent burns,and her sad loss had stolen the rosy hue of health and left in its stead a pallor upon the still delicate features, sickness from her experiences had worn away the rounded cheeks till the face lighted by large beautiful eyes was such as artists dream and ponder but cannot reproduce or form an angels.

"Gertrude"said Nell,when Her brother finished his story"I dreamed last night that The Blessed Mother and St joseph are going to help r me and brother and all of us to get to our destination but Miss Turner would be there first." Conceived without sin."

"She always wears the Medel." whispered Manson"and prays often"Or Mary

"I wish you'd pray to Her to get us allout of this trouble soon." said Gertrude.

"The dreams will come true, like in any book.And Manson you look so swell now in your uniform.And I've got good news too."

"What!" ordd Manson.

"Can you guess."

"The flood is receding."?

"No.Guess again.It's wireless telegram."

"Who from?"

"From a girlscout in general Aronburgs army far northwest."

"From Concentinian Aronburgs army.That is where our big brother is an officer."

"You are getting nearer Manson.What do you think it says."

"Come on and tell me please."

While brother and sister were spanking, Angeline Richee drew a paper from herpocket, and began looking it over.

"It says that papa and mamma are not dead, but had been rescued from the flood and brought to Calverine.Here read it Manson." and she produced the letter.

"why"exclaimed Manson suddenly, as he glanced at the subscro superscription "This is a letter or wireless tolegram from the general himself."

"Surely you didn't guess that.Yes some one wrote to the general without saying anything to me, and a,do why don't you read it.!!!"

"Listen Miss Aronburg, you know our story.""

The letter ran as follows;

"To the superior girlscout general Miss Angelinia Richee,

"There is a Mr and Mrs Gallie in Calverine city."

"There now. They were not killed or drowned after all."exclaimed Nellie her eyes dancing.

They are in comfortable circumstances, and they are good and healthy.Every body marvels at their wonderful escape, and esteems them.When they were rescued. they lost two beautiful little children, a boy of ten and a girl of eight who were probably drowned in the flood as they are stillll missing.Can you locate them.Their parents live on 455 4556 Lombardine Street.Calverine city."

General
Concentinian Aronburg."

"Why dear Nellie ty this is sure good news." exclaimed Hannsen."This is sure good news. It is almost too good to be true.But Calverine is in Northern Calverinia twenty miles west of Bongall State, and --And---".

"didn 't numbie any, that my brother was the best of men to try and find our parents!" broke in Nellie."If we were not harred off by the flood we could go and see them.Couldn't we get a communication to them,and let them know we are alive."

"Nellie I'll tell you a secret. When it was reported our parents had perished, my Uncle told me to take you to our Aunt in Grande Angeles.But after our flight and mishap during the forest fire, and the enemy stealing on us we didn't have any money, and I thought it awful hard.Now I believe its best we didn't go.I didn't think of telling you Uncles order."

"How many days will it take to get there if we could go by train!" asked Nellie eagerly.

"It won't take ten hours by a fast train if the flood hadn't spoiled anything from Bongall State, but from here it'll take over three days. But we can sent your parents a wireless telegram"said Gertrude.

"Oh shall we Hannsen dear."I and Nellie clasped her hands and looked anxiously at her brother.

"Yes." he answered.

"The next question," persued Gertrude,"Is how much have you two got to pay for the telegrams"?

"I've about thirteen cents, and a fifty cent piece." answered Nellie.

"And I"said her brother, have only ten cents."

"Well I happen to be somewhat well off just now.Now little girl, I'll see to it that the telegram goes, but let me have the address in that letter."

"And Nell"said Angeline Richee you better go back to your camp and get ready and if you don't hurry about it, you'll miss your breakfast."

"Miss Aronburg"said Hannsen,hhow willyou make your way to Emperor Vivians?"

"Oh there'll be no trouble about that when the floods let down.We have ashuge raft, and we just now how to manage it."

But Miss Aronburg, how can you tell whether everything turns out for the best."

"I'll leave that in the care of the Saints in Heaven."

Gertrude however before intending to start decided upon another adventure to the stricken forest fire region, and to give them some adventure decided to take Hannsen and his little ci sister with her.In due time after breakfast preparations for departure were completed.There was yet no sign of Jonas Green and Gertrude felt angry and worried but she said nothing.Gertrude took possession of the calvacade and before brother and sister could fairly realize what a change had come in their prospects, she had given directions to her guides concerning the parts of the ruined sections she intended visiting.These two were to scon know the better things of the camp.The friendships between girls and boyscouts defied separation.so it was that Gertrude again left the camp light of heart, and followed by her troop.

"Well I've had plenty of adventure since the beginning of this war,and now I'll go and find the place to give a good adventure, and after that to morrow I'll start again on my way as for the rest of my stay here I reckon I'll have to move or the flood will rise upon us."

"After the first shock of this or these two enormous and overwhelming disasters"said Gertrude beginning the conversation on this subject" "I have heard that the f ew crowds who might have escaped from flood or fire, or from the region of the explosion disasters,and the advancing enemy have entered into a sttte of apathy from which they were slow to rouse."

"How does that come!" asked Jean.

"Why such is often the fact , r or case after some supreme grief or results following such catastrophes.I've seen in the reports that this was noticed by the relief parties on their arival."

"What is apathy!" asked Hanson,as he had never heard the word.

"It the results of a heavy loss." said Gertrude."The shock may be so great that for a moment it might effect a person as if he has a "I don't care " feeling or so forth. "When he really coms too though he breaks down worst than those who showed grief at the very start.""""

"When I was out myself"said Hanson "I was with hundreds of persons trying to enter a city, which name I've forgotten,.Many of them hardly had any clothes on, and not one had even a single belonging with them.They looked to me as if they were dazed, and did not know what to do to care for themselves.We could not hardly receive succor there, the city even in the streets were crowded with refugees,and a bulletin was posted on a sign board by the Mayor which read th at there w re so many burned persons,and sick among the refuges taken in that medical supplies were badly needed.I was struck with what you call the apparent paathy of the people who were looking for shelter.Their calmness while speaking of such catastrophes and the enemy and so on was something remarkable.A b attle bulletin had been placed also on a bill poster the day I arived, and the people seemed moreinterested in the result than in the destruction caused by the disaster.At least that is the way it appeared."

"But it seems that this unatural condition would and will soon change with the progressive forest fire, and the successvie disaster that continue, and which threaten to imperial the whole nation." said Jane."I have heard that streams of frightened refugees, by the hundred thousand pour into Calverine, and other far northern cities from all the surrounding country.Most of these people are not destitute from the case as they are not exactly disaster victims, but they are terrified by the spread of the "Red Plague"s and other horrors.They want only one thing and that is to be transported away as far from the War Zo e Zone as possible.The coun councils of every big city, are said to be waylaid by crowds of persons crazed wity with fear, and begging to be carried away.The people of the devestated states, like Angelinia, Vine, Calverinia, and Bongall, and southeastern Calverinia believe that the country is doomed, that the land will burn up or sink below the earth,and are leaving by tran trainloads where trains can be had."

"That is exactly true"declared Gertrude."And as long as e ah effort is being made to bury such bodies of victims in the approachableportions of the disaster zone as were found, there was some attempt to police the ruins of such flood and explosion ruined towns and villages as are accessable to prevent the entrance of undesirable visitor,s vandals, and curiosity seekers.The guards are maintained strongly, but nevertheless the Glandelinians vandals them selves are hardly brave enough to brave the threatening aspects of the frightful horror and also brave the smoke clouds of forest fires that roll come continously from the blazes,and no one who cannot give an account of himself is permitted to roam the deserted cities and towns.We have a number of cities that were as horribly devastated by the Abbiesan explosions as St Pierre was by the volcano on that island.And we have 150000 horrors at once like that of Galveston at the country of America.Up there we do not need to fear of wholesale looting however, as it is discovered there is nothing left to loot.

Water and fire has destroyed everything.Our new Calverinian Governer has large parties of Abbiesnnian troops and revenue officers in the ruins of o[illegible] towns where looting may be done.But fortunately for us there are no looters. The Glandelinians seem afraid.But many Glandelinians who were dressed as citizens have been arrested to be questioned as to the cause of the disaster.As they won't or would not talk they have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment during their trials, and also convicted.Some man were sent to prison for twenty years and some for life because they refuse to talk.Some of out our officials did not think the sentence severe enough and appealed the cases to Emperor Vivian.The Calverinian Courts had jurisdictions over penotentiary offenses of which there can be any maximum pelanties except capitol punishment without permission from the Princesses or EmprorVivian."

"Looting"said Dolires "in this country is a crime that belongs to the Criminal Court for Capitol punishment.Yet there is no reports of such looters. So I myself believe the Glandelinians are afraid.We suffered s from vandals earlier in this war, and people had even tried to attack the looters while they were being taken to jail.The people and the aurthorities have been so highly excited over the looting and were so anxious that the wicked Glandelinian vandals be tried by the highest courts and severe sentences that now I believe the Glandelinians are afraid."

They had now arived within sight of the city, and observed that an enormous cloud as dark as storm clouds obscured the sky on this fifth day of August.There was danger of tal darkness prevailing, and the girls felt somewhat unsrved as they had thought the sky had cleared up in this locality.Therefore their feeling of anxiety continued, and Gertrude did not know whether she should proceed or not.A singular phenomena also was observed far to the northwestern sky.Clouds like gigantic white ostrich plumes rose high inthe heavens under the darker mass, and they had luminous linings which appeared to be flames. "This enough is enough to throw the whole country of people into consterb consternation." said Gertrude.

"Yesterday at noon"i heard news that the flood waters began to recede."said Penrod,"but it was caused only by a mysterious swell from the northeast produced by one of the forest fire hurricanes.I did see yesterday s long rolling wave wp spreading along the waterfront, but it did not do much damage.The flood again seemed to recede and leaving a considerable portion of the landscape uncovered for a time.But now it looks as if the water was back to its norm l stretch."

"I have seen a day when a forest fire threatened my own home town"said Angeline Rae."The winds had been blowing all day but toward evening it had become twice as violent, and even raised dust into the air, and flung pebbles and stones all about.They were even at times followed by pieces of rock some weighing from three to twelve pounds,and the winds lifted the roofs of many houses..I did not dare go out, but I saw the panic stricken people rushing out of their homes.Some made for the river near by and others made for the mountains where it was still more forested.Others sought to escape to the shipping in our river

port.The scene was one of the wildest confusion.Whole families assembled on the jetties, and along the river,, nearly all falling on their knees, and screaming forth appeals for boats and trains to take them to safty.The steamers far down the river kept many persons on board till the morning, when the forest fire swept aside, and most of the refugees went back.Yet another day of terror and panic was so spent by the people ofour town.That was you know at the beginning of the forest fire horror.An explosion occured somewhere and for six minutesour town was literally bombarded as if by a volcano from falling debris.Stones rained on the city in a hail storm of fury.Houses again were being destroyed by the gales and a fires startéd in many quarters.and the ar was so filled with thick clouds of smoke that it was barelypossible for us to breathe.And at times it seemd as if suffocation must be the fate of all of us who did not have the chances to flee from the town.While the loss of life was not great,the fire was said to be far worse than at its start, and for many hours the explosions of dynimite used bh by desperately fighting fire fighters was so great and frequent that it seemed as if our town would be shaken from its foundation.Thousands of people were leaving.Some had gone into the hills and mountains to run the risk of starvation, preferring that to the fate that would be theirs if the fire overwhelmed them.Others went to the near by towns to depend upon the charity of strangers.But we remained.Every ship in the river ho boats girls was crowded with men women and children ready to flee at the next appearance of greater danger.And clustered about the ships were small boats filled with men who begged to be taken off.Hundreds who had found it impossible to obtain boats to take them to the ships, swam out, risking their lives in the water in order to avoid the danger that filled them with more terrible dread."

"The whole thing is very unusual" said Catherine Estrabrook as she looked at the smoke fog hovering over the city."I've recieved news from wireless as you all know, that from all parts of Calverinia, and even into Abyssinkille and Concentinia State refugees were and are coming into the cities and towns. The mountain roads north of Calverine, and the hilly slops of the Volcanoes Mt John and Calverine, were filled and covered with panic stricken and star ving persons all fleeing the "red plague".Ariving there their terrors have not decreased,and they are as anxious to press on to some safer place, as they are to get to the cities.All the roads for hundreds of miles north of the disaster zone were said to be dotted with dead, and many were reported to be dying having fallen from weakness on the way.Liberal wages are offered for rescuers to go out and assist those who had fallen by the way, but the laborerers are too full of fear and dread of the approaching Red Plague to be tempted by any offer.

The panic was greatest last week, when the sun failed to raise and the sky was dark all over the country by smoke of fires from forests, and burning villinges and towns.The skies in the east they say were filled with rolling and whirling clouds that were fiery red, and at night the glare in the sky could be seen at Calverine three hundred miles away from those fires.Many at Calverine even believed the flames were about to come upon their city, or to fall upon them from the Heavens, and the terror that ensued wampitiful."

"I've read of it too." said Mary Stanck."The spectacle day by day is so appalling that the populace of cities and towns could not and cannot appreciate the sublimity of it.Rumors even came that Mt Calverine had exploded and Mt Joan was blasting the air and yet there were no volcanic erupt ons. Quickly the streets were filled.Soldiers and even sailors were said to mix freely with the frightened citizens, all scared witless.All in Calverine they said struggled to get to places of safty, they knew not, and cared not where.All believed that where they were then, was the place of greatest danger.Many cursed in their frenzy, thinking it was perya prayers they were uttering. Others fell to their knees onthe street s and besought protection from above.None are able to refrain from tears.The panic is never subsiding it seems."

"Many river shipping up north picked up 100!000 persons who were stu struggling in the water,and took them to Calverine"said Mildred Ferran."Scores of thousands of others were said to have been taken to Pandora, and other cities. The small boats are out constantly saving many who otherwise would have drowned. They are all refugees of the " Red Plague.It read the supplies are plentiful for a time but great suffering is caused by the lack of water.All the natural water supplies have been polluted either by the effects of the heat from the "Red Plague" or from the flood.Water has been doled from by ships,and word has been sent to near by towns and regions of pure lakes for a greater supply."

"Because of the magnitude of the disaster." said Jane Melfort,there are no prices being demanded for any kind of transportation.Those fortunate to own small boats that were and are sufficient ly sea worthy to make them run from city to cty city by rivers took away many who desired to escape the wrathful heat and fury of the fire.Hundreds a went at once, and thousands waited for an opportunity to get away.If we could have gotten a mong these refugees we would not have been stuck here."

"The reports too"said Joan"is that the Governments of the States up north recog nizes the possible necessity of ab andoning the whole War Zone in response to the clamorous terror of the inh abitants,and the manifest threat of continued danger from the "RED PLAGUE" which is as much dreaded as the floods.The Governor of Domdobia cabled from Calecine city to the Calverinian Governor instructing him to make all possible arrangements with the aid of the Abyssinkilian aurthor ities for the embarkation and transportation of the inhabitants of the fire threatened states in the event of circumstances compelling the eca evacuat ion of Calverinia especially.All of the neighboring towns and cities of the upper states from Abyssinkile to Triponlongolia offered their hospitality to the refugees and are sending trains on all tracks that can be used. Domdobia being the sister State to Calverinia is the favorite refuge for the fleeing people.The Domdobian State Government likewise is considering the advisability of transferring many of the Calverinian refugees to the State of Abbiconnia. The exodus is continuous since the disasters have occured, but the aurthorities are hesitating to take such radical action as to order the depopulation of the whole Calverinian State when they hoped something may turn up to put an end to the ravaging Red Hot Death.T e people are convinced too that Glandelinia is winning the war and mean to scourge it with fire and flood and then destroy them all in the efforts to win.Utter and unreasonable fear possesses all souls.Even Pandora city is believed to be unsafe though so far northwest.The presence of the relief ships however coming from origen ports even is help ful to the people who said"God is Our Only Refuge Now."

With the greatest difficulty the girlscouts succeeded in making a landing at the shoreward part of the city of St Gertrude.They saw the ruins better now for when they entered the haze had cleared away as a strong west wind blew mostly from the the south.The effects of the conflagration in the city now proved to have been tremendous.The winds of the fire hurricane too was not sufficient to account for all this, even if there had been a passage of a furious blast of blazing gases traveling at ernormous speed and with in calculable force it would not have consumed more than the flames did.The piles of smouldering wreckage was ernormous.It was evident now to the girlscouts that the forest fire had affected many towns from the ---.Nor had the distant appearance of the forest fires ceased even though moving on northward. Vast columns of smoke still poured from the northern horizons as if fissures were opened on the landsides and were vomiting whil whirlwinds of smoke and smoke which seemed to form intermittently now at one point, and now at another. From a once beautiful city, St Gertrude had become a hedious mephit eatre of fiery roaring destruction.

The girls knew that from reports recieved by cable and wireless the fires had continued and still continued for days to menance the existence of the entire forested country of southeastern Calverinia.without stopping the flames were in progress northwestward and eastward.A new conflagration they heard had formed on the north side of Mic-Mollester Forest and from this conflagration a secondary second ary fire moved down tward the forested plains.This new fire was probably the results of some terrific explosion that occured somewhere early the morningjust past.It had been known too that there had been som further loss of life,and what was more distressing, the forest fires was making now such a course from three directions, and trying to meet in another, that a large numberof towns, filled with mostly old men and women and even children, and mostly flood refugees were imprisoned in the burning areas which surrounded them.And worst of all it was impossible for assistance to be rendered to them by any human beings,as no one could get through the walls of the "Red Plague" and nothing less than amiracle could save the thousands upon thousands from the awful death that confronted them.And this menance was eighty miles southwest of Evangeline St Claire.

These unfortunate towns were on a branch of the Evangeline St Claire river called the Grande Rivieri Run.The towns were cut off from escape, when the fires were converging from different directions by the effect os sudden shifting winds.The flames that burst upon the St Ptera Creek swept away all the trees, turned roads red hot, boiled away creek and brook and ditch channels of water and reaching the Evangeline St Claire having spread onward, and turning the sandy creek beds into such heat as to be almost incandescent.

In th is way were the towns full of women and children refugees surrounded by the worst conflagrations ever on record or ever worded. Efforts were made to reach them by thousands of men and wo soldiers and rangers, and though they could seen pleading for delib deliverance, it was impossible to get there or give them aid.Even their food supply was limited if not entirely coming to an end, and starvation if not a more terrible fate confronted these 100! 100,000 peoples Gradually but steadily the seas of flames were spreading, and if the fires still increased, and the rains did not come,,, a big wave of fire would soon sweep away the doomed victims..

the town of Valsoco was destroyed, as was La Verso, where it was said that 23 forest rangers perished when they were trapped in the flames.Even many inhabitants of the village were believed to have been lost, but it was impossible to tell the number. The girls knew from the wireless telegraphic reports they recieved through their own instruments that in all Calverinia, and the other threatened states the conditions were impossible to describe.Unlike reports were e heard from the forest fire zone at every few minutes, which no doubt was the blazing by the tons of thousands of rangers and men trying in vain to stop the flames.
"Gert ude Gertrude again said)!!
"Believing that the whole country is doomed, the population conti ues in a state of dreadful and pitiful a panic. Just as fast as possible they are leaving by boats, wagons, horses, and by any means of transportations that are open in the districts not touched by the ravaging floods.As long as they get away from the flames they do not care where they go.All that the refugees are asking is a means of leaving the region they have come to regard as an inferno.."
"How many refugees went to Calverina?"asked Jean.
"Six hundred and fifty thousand went there; on the San Salvador Railroad many from burns, many almost entirely naked, and in a sad state of poverty and not one with more than the clothes he wore.The transportation however was without charge. Among the homeless ones they report were many too old or too young to even take care of themselves.A great number were orphans and nuns; and also many children, whose parents were the victims of the r g rage of the enemy/ or of the disasts disasters."
"Throughout our whole country"said Mildred there are fears that a terrible pestilence is starting with the result from the bo bodies of the flood horrors that floated ashore on all the flood shore.Scores and hundreds of burned incinerated bodies floated ashore at Calverina.They were buried, and precautions are taken to prevent an outbreak of disease disease. And the demoralization among the refugees, and all the inhabitants was intensified by the opinion of the many scientists, that the floods still were rising, and that the forest fires threatened all of the forests of the country,and that nothing can stop the "Red Plague."
Gertrude had a strong desire to investigate t her bearings again, and therefore she and her force of scouts with her, started through the ruins of the city, and reached far into the interior without difficulty, and was able to ascertain that the present and distant conflagration was about fifty miles away to the north by this time, but new blazes seemed to be forming more straight tward the east.On the east the city w s was overlooked by the col culminating part of an unburned forest on a rise of ground having an altitude of five hundred or more feet, but the ground in the path of the hottest sweep of the Red Plague had an incandescent aspect and was smoking.In order to make known their presence in the city, and at the point where she stood in p particular, Gertrude taking advantage of the fact that the air had become clearer waved the girlscout g signal flag in the a r air from a high mound of ruins, which was replied to by a corresponding signal from one of the scouts left behind in the camp, who signalled back to her in order to show that the boy or girl who answered saw them.The girls in the city felt a number of strange commotions under their feet, and their shoes were damaged by the heat of the rubble, and the heat where they stood was intense, and the whole aspect of the city most terrifying.They then continued on slowly and cautiously, and succeeded in reaching El Verso Street.As they continued on Pedrad said;
"Only yesterday I recieved a cablegram that the spread of fires have cast a new fear into the thousands of panic stricken refugees in the cities,and as a result the clamor to leave the region is becoming greater than ever.But I was thinking what they would do if they were in our place now."
Th"The disaster zone or north of it had been carefully inspected"said Gertrude "and as a result of the inspection the hood investigators have declared that they feared the entire Mid-Hollester Woods and a good section of the Marie Osborne Woods might disappear into the sea of flames any week.They suggested that a "trocha" be established across the fire zone northward as soon as possible to keep all inhabitants out of the dangerous district . The forest fire too is still threatening the Evangeline St Claire district, and passing steamers on rivers said fires were seen in separate stretches that extended forons of the blazes for a distance of twenty miles at once.New fires were starting adding to the terror of the populace. And also despite the work of special Calverinian Commissions, composed of all civil aurthorities headed by Mayors of cities which were seeking to check the wide spread alarm and subdue the panic eight hundred thousand left western Calverinia on july 24th all going to Calverine or Fernals Atlanta.Every one were taken on boats and still running trains free of charge and indeed the strain to which these poor helpless refugees are constantly exposed even from the dangers of so heartless an enemy is driving many to despair and even insanity.Seventy thousand of them destitute and hungry were assisted clothed and fed under the direction of the government aurthorities of Mildred Green Burg city, even though that place had been hard hit by disasters....."

"And as an extra precaution"said Joy, "The Governor of Calverinia ordered the electric lights of various cities nearest the fire zone extinguished at all times for fear of attracting electric disturbances produced by the fierce heats of the ravaging "Red Plague" A military guard had been posted.Even fresh horrors are continually shaking the nervous population of the sorely tried cities and towns, with the news of successes of the enemy,and of a frightful conflict recently raging at Mis-Whirther.The panic of the people hardly subsides,and I've read that immense throngs of mad crazed citizens of river towns in the path of blazes are still rushing up and down the beaches on shores and along the harbors in a useless outlook for vessels to bear them away from this awful scene of devastation and death,, and their fears would be increased at night when a bright glow appeared along the horizon at a new quarter, as if red hot fissures were opening in the earth. The effect of this new evidence gives that the country seems to be rapidly rendered unfit for huma human habitation habitation upon the people, weak with constant horror and strain and mentally unbalanced for the time being was and is extraordinary.Many it appeared to drive completely insane, and a number of persons while in this condition precipated themselves into the boiling waters of the river that runs through and from the fire zone. The unfortunate creatures were parboiled before they could be rescued.Other mis miserable beings have thrown themselves into other rivers, while still others are wandering about in utter distraction, muttering and moaning in a h heartbreaking monotones"
"The report also says"said Mary Stanck"that the new fires appeared to have formed a big breach in a mountain side twenty miles long.This part of the conflagration is situated northwest of us bordering near the flood, and it is this part of the fire that is threatening to overwhelm the despairing inhabitants of the towns endangered near the Evangeline St Claire who for some days have been cut off by these fires, from any hope of aid."
"That is very bad but it does not make it unusual"said Angeline Jennings."I've recieved reports that the pessimistic reports or conclusions of the Abbicennian Mission to Calverinia increased the pressure brought to bear on the Abbicennian Governor of Abbicennian state in order to induce him to take decisive steps for the evacuation of the Calverinian States.The instructions to the Abbicennian Governor ordering fa facilities to be placed at the disposal of persons desiring to leave,were however very insufficient to satisfy the advocates of evacuation,who insists that the Government should by force remove every man woman and child from a danger likely to culminate in a great disaster at any moments And among the various agencies that sought to assist the Abbicennian Government are the head members of the Comini, which were willing to place their entire service at the disposal of the aurthorities, but was informed by its agents that very few of the people could come to Abbicennia, as the disaster destroyed communications in that direction.According to figures pub,ished p b published by the ministery of the country, nearly fifty five thousand left the earliest time from the threatened districts producing the greatest disorg anizations in the affairs of towns and villages.Even to make things worse it had been reported to us by tele cablegram that the Glandolinian armies are again turning their wrath on the Calverinian sections, and just recently on July the 23, and to the 26th many lives were sacrificed to bloody massacres.For more than fifteen or sixteen hours the Glandolinian armies were in a state of violent fury, and as they grew constantly more threatening to add to the horrors the panic had grown worse. The town of Fort De Turne was destroyed, and outside the Glandolinian soldiery getting the upper hand were in a terrible fury, and the fear of a general slaughter of even the refugees was in the minds of all.The exodus from the state is continuing, and only the christian armies remains. All the time these Glandolinians have given no warning of the devastation that they were about towork.The explosion at Abbicenn, believed to be an eruption from the ground occured as we all know May the 31th or a little later.I heard that flames were seen shooting skyward fifty or seventy thousand feet and that smoke floated away in the greatest clouds.The outburst they say was accompanied by the most tremendous display ever seen. And developements in the conditions now I'm sure indicates disasters to come greater and more destructive than any that has yet occured unless something can be done to frustrate the enemy.The enemy is always active,and no wonder from what we see that Mildred Maxwell is sure the enemy will win.But you know there can be a turning of the worm.""
"You are right"said the others."The W r Worm will turn."
The main reason Gertrude had come here again to the city was for the purpose of getting photographs of the devastations, and descriptions of the conditions about the burned city of St Gertrude. Along with the girls though not mentioned before were a corespondent and a photographer for the Angelinia Apathia Daily Times.What they finally went through is most graphic and thrilling. They had a weary tramp through the city which took a good part of the morning and finally the centre of the city was reached about ten oclock.Gertrude insisted on a pause being made for refreshments, and food was prepared.It was this hint of Gertrudes that saved the expedition from destruction. The

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original plan was that the visit should be made to the city as soon as possible with a quick return to the camp to avoid all danger from falling ruins.While the early Monday meal was being prepared; the soldiers pointed out the work of ruin that had been accomplished.Gertrude felt the whole forested region of Calverinia would be swept out of existence.Then a explosion came pretty close to the city. As flying objects began to fall many of the soldiers on guard in the city ran in a panic.Some did not wait to see what was happening but hurried off in the direction of the camp.Others turned instinctively to the guides as their protector.He or they directed them to the higher walls of still standing buildings, telling them that the explosion would not harm the city; or that if anything was wrong they could not escape by fleeing; and that they should pray for preservation from the dangers that threatened them.This was done, scores fell upon their knees but by far the greater number ran without daring to look behind them.

Part of this scene of terror was witnessed by the girls.They saw the great column of smoke and shooting flame rise high into the air. They watched the flying wreckage, all being calm and brave.Such a dis l display of fury as was seen then has not often been viewed.It was terrific and awe inspiring. From the falling objects greater danger was apprehended than from the direct effects of the explosion.

When the start was made on the return trip to the camp, the soldiers were gone.Even through thevpanic the news paper men were left behind to find their way acrosss the hills as best as they could, while for our little heroines it was a weary and a long journey. .The distance was increased also by the lack of knowledge of the paths.It was an afternoon of terrors.Explosions continued making the ground tremble.To add to the horror of their situation the travelers encountered every now and then, great furnaces of smouldere.On l all sides were refugees praying.Many fell exhausted by the way, and were unable to continue.

Gertrude had seen something like incandescent material flowing from the top of some hill swept by the forest fire.She believed that the fires would rage for a year or more or until the rains would come.With that threat of a danger hanging over Calverinia, it was inconceivable that a new series of towns should grow up there in haste to take the places and repeat the fate that had fa befallen the others. Sovit was those who did not yet forsake the country where they had spent their lives sought home as far from the fires as possible. The scientists remained for a long time to study the terrifying phen phenomena and the conditions that followed the passage of the flames, in the hope that something might be added to the sum of human knowledge sufficiently to justify the risk andperhaps be of some great value in averting such calamities in the future .The authorities and armies were remaining toperform their own official duties, in the burial of the dead, the averting of plagues, and the recovery of property.The Glandelinians remained, but excepting for these, no sun looked down upon a country torn by miserable war, sheltered day by day by the cloud of smoke from many big fires, and the floods that destroyed unestimated numbers of lives in a cataclysm that could be told as long as the world shallever last.

It was high or nigh upon four oclock in the afternoon. August the 9ith. Gertrude, alone was pacing up and down the front apartment of the room of the headquarters of the girlscout scout officers, taking lively strides, occassionally clasping her hands tightly or striking her clenched hands upon an inoffensive table bordering the line of his her route, and ever and a non to glance or stopping to glance savagely and "wickedly" out of the window.Gertrude utters and mutters now and then between her clenched teeth words that though not profanity is nevertheless severe criticisms of the boy James green who yet had not returned. In short Gertrude Angeline is very very angry.

"I'll cowhide the wretched little brat of a toad within an inch of his life if I ever get my hands on him.I could charge him with desertion, the little scamp."

This remark, with theadjectives a little stronger than here written though not profanity issued from her lips as the last stroke of four came ringing through the air from a camp clock in the house or room, and Gertrude made one of her pauses at the window front.This time she gave a sudden start, followed by a gasp her eyes bulged from her head, as far as the economy of her bodily fr frame would allow, and she did stare.

Finally she recovered herself without effort,, made a remark that this time was almost a bad word, then a calling to her aides aide-de-camp she dashed down the stairways, threw the front door open with a bang and with vicious and unnecessary violence,and---and---and-----

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Could that surely be James Green!The fi figure walking up the front steps, looking more like some young tramp or beggar,and a very bad looking and disreputable young beggar at that.He was not even in hus uniform.He had a long shaped straw hat on his head and it was crushed as though it had been used as a football or gone on under a pile driver.The ragged clothes were splaeus splashed with mud and gravel while the trousers were torn one one u on one knee, and a long deep rent under the armpit, revealed what kind of shirt the boy was wearing.His face black with smoke dust was swollen,and hisupper lift lip was puffed out to a ridiculous degree. James had done many a strange thing since he was known in the camp, when he came in with the batch of reinforcing boys; but the limit was reached on this occasion.

"You brat.You vulgar little deserter, you beggar."screamed the girlscout leader with an extra slang word"don't you dare come in here or I'll lash you with a horsewhip, I'll cowhide you till you are i black and blue."James"to her aide-de-camp"place him immediately under arrest..."

James however then paused half way up the steps, and as James hthe aide-decamp scowled him, tried to s smile.However it was an awful failure. He Probably he was willing enough to give one of his silly smiles, but his upper lip, the most important part of his smiling"works" refused to do its duty under any conditions,,, and so instead of smiling he succeeded in distorting his face still more."

"Thanks for warning me Miss Aronburg." he slowly made answer."I won't come in.I've been collopped enough."

"Have you been fighting among your comrades, you vulgar little guttersnipe!" continued the enraged girlscout leader, forgetting herself and saying the word the Glandelinians use.

"Yes, but not with my comrades.. answered"the vulgar little gutterssnipe" as the aidedecamp brought him to the foot of the steps, and she came hastily down, followed by Angeline Richee, Jennie Turner and Dolores who heard the commotion"But I couldn't help it honest.I was attacked by Glandelinians!"

"You were.A likely story.Served you right for leaving me alone in the woods and not coming back till now."I supposed you'll say you whipped them."

Gertrude was a girl who believed nothing that she heard from boys and men she didn't like, or didn't trust, her anger asserted itself still more, and even the other superior Angeline Richee, looked serious, and Dolores scowled.

"You could be held for desertion." the latter sneered."You have been gone for fully fourty hours; and we have a hundred boys still out risking their lives looking for you and know not now how to recall them.Ex l explain yourself James or I'll call Penrod."

"See here Miss Mic-Hollester if you promise not to report me, I'll tell you all about it."

"I'll promise nothing"said Dolores looking thunder at him.You young scamp what did you do with your uniform.You know there's a penalty to change them for something else."

"I didn't give them away.They were taken from me."

"Were you robbed!" demanded Angeline Richee.

"Yes, I told you I was attacked."

"You did not tell me no such thing."

"No I made a mistake I told Miss Aronburg, all my money is gone, seventeen dollars, and my Miraculious Medal, and no Rosary, a prayer book,"

"We are not asking you what you missed.Were you really attacked by Glandelinians or did you resist the boys who tried to bring you."

"No Miss Richee I didn't.I'm telling you the truth.it is as good as a story."

Angeline Richee took a step forward.

"Where did you go l that night you left Gertrude alone in the woods." she continued, almost less savagely, for the humor of the situation was making its impression even upon him.

"Promise not to allow me to be accused as a deserter; and I'll tell you all about it."

"I'll see about that after I've heard your story, providing you can prove you had no intentions of deserting."

"Honest Miss Richee."

"Yes honest.No you think I lie."

"You won 't have me whipped if I tell my story."

"No body is going to whip you, fool."

"Cross your heart, Miss Richee.!"

"Confound you, you doubting Thomas "YES."

"All right then."

"Lead him to his tent." said Gertrude to her aide-de-camp."Will have to washed up first, but I feel awful suspicious just the same.If he can't prove his innocence, its the firing squad for him.The old foreigner."

The boy was brought to the washing department of the camp by James and two other boys, and they kept up a severeprocess of bathing for fifteen minutes without saying a word to him.

"Well"finally snapped James the aide-de-camp""If you were in a fight with who won!"

"Oh I've proud and to t il tell that to the girls only..ly uniform are spoiled from mud and dand..wherever there was a quagmire; I was sure to go tumbling or stepping right into it!You see boys I was chased."

"Who chased you James."

"Two Glandelinian officers and--- oh wait till I tell the girls".

In the meantime Gertrude and the others had to content themselves for the next five minutes with grim grinding out remarks between their teeth which fortunately were not audful to say.At length James Green was sparently ready for his story telling.With the exception of his face do like he looked like the boy he should be, and also what he is and was.

He was again brought before the four girlsabout "generals."

"Well now Master James let's hear your story please."

"James took a s o sponge from a bidket of water and put it to his lips.

"Did you hear me sir!"

"Oh I beg your pardon.You want the story do you!"

"That's what I said beheben d."

"And you four girlscwill remember your promise?"

"Yes you brats"

"You wouldn't call namesplease.Well girls I'm not going to tell you my story ,then you can't convict me.""And he removed his sponge quickly and smiled hediously.Jennie turner who was nearest bounded from the log she was sitting on and James having been free from the side-downs made for the raft.

"Well will you girls keep your promise!" he asked with his hand grasping a paddle.

"Yes; come back,"cried Jennie,I'll not touch you.Come back and go ahead with your story, I'll promise not to whip you in h any cases!"

"Ah that is a bargain.Well the night I lost Gertrude"and James gave a description of his adventures of how he really and truly was lost, how he had really lost Gertrude, how he three times ma had narrow escapes from fires, how by a narrow margin he avoided stepping into quicksand in a stream, how he had intended to wade a stream, and found the water scalding hot, and then how he came upon roving glandelinian scouting parties who were also studying the course of the forest fire.

"And then girls"he continued,"I thought since Gertrude was seperatedfrom me how I could then try and make up for it and please her."

"What exquisite consideration." growe growled Gertrude,

"Wasn't it Miss Aronburg."I knew you wouldn't like me to be gone so long; that you feared I had deserted you,and besides I was afraid you'd shoot me as a deserter or call me names,an lose your your temper and you did Miss, Aronburg,You swore at me dreadfully, and you said---"

"Gobon with your story,"cried Gertrude."Tell me about the fight with the Glandelinians."

"I'm coming to it Miss Aronburg.Well then I started to ride back to camp hoping I knew the way.You see Girls I'd made up my mind to frustrate the enemy."

"You've wonderful ideas for such work I suppose." snarled Dolores in parenthesis.

"Well when I had riddenfor about a mile I came to a clearing in the forest. Beyond I saw it was all afire, and what scared me most there were three squadrons of Glandelinian cavarly on horseback, those kind we know as the Scoundlare and they had observed me and gave chase and surrounded me before I could escape.I saw h saw rougher rougher looking Glandelinian soldiers since I entered the christian army."

"And did you try to shoot them all down!"

"Huh! The wonder is they didn't cut me down first thing, as they had a mind to.The middle fellow that looked like a man called Jeff in the Daily Nirmies seemed to be the ringleader.Another man looked like that Augustus Nutt.There was one Glandelinian soldier who had three teeth that stuck out.They were his higher up teeth."

"Upper you Fo-legner," corrected Gertrude.

"Exactly.They were large-teeth, larger than many h men have Girls, and---

"Never mind the teeth,go on will you."

"Why don't you girls give me a chance!This isn't a grammar class. Well the man who looked like Jeff said-

"Who are you kid, and what you want here in this forest.Are you a spy."

"And did you hit him...!!!!!!!"

James looked at Jennie turner reproachfully.

"Do you think I was going to committ suicide when surrounded by men with sabres all drawn.! I protended I wasn't on your side, and made off as if I couldn't speak Abbsmannian, and he finally spoke to one of his men who said he could speak english a little and he then asked me;

"What was he didding heah head!"

"I told him I was a foreigner lost, that my sister got scared of the fire, and some of the Glandelinians grinned and the one who looked like Nutt giggled. Then the Jeff fellow said in an awful savage way in broken english

-just the way you were talking to me a minute ago---"

"Well for the love of Heaven, what did he say."burst in the excited listeners in a chorus this time.

"He said-

"Have ze got ze suspeciouspapers aboind ye.!"

"I said no, and he used some words far worst than like what you said--he said--"

"Go on what did you do!"

"I said I didn't carry papers, and then boo before I could guess what he was up to he gave me an awful slap on the lip, and he struck out again.I dodged the second blow, and I then was so angry that like a fool I struck back with all my might with my riding stick, and he went sprawling from his horse.I **struck him in the** mouth with my riding stick with all my might, and he went sudwn sou' down, and when he got up, he was spitting and coughing, and I could count only one tooth."

"And what did you do then!"

"I couldn't do anything girls.Two other rebel soldiers grabbed me tight ,and while the fellow was hopping round, and swearing whenever he could get his breath, the other two went through my pockets, and got a silk handkerchief my sister gave me on my birthday, and a small map of my country home, and my few sticks of chewing gum and took away my cartridge belt, and guns.

They swore at me too for nothing having what they suspected me of."

"And did you not make any resistance!"

"I squirmed and wriggled around, and when they had emptied all my pockets , they brought me to the woods and dismounted from their horses,, and encamped there.I realized I was a prisoner but I was determined to escape.It was real hard to have to come back to campwithout proofs that I was a prisoner or that my story is the truth, and so when the guard was not looking , I knocked him down by hitting him in the back with a big stone, and then stealing a horse raced thri through them and sped away as fast as I could with an officers coat, sabre and hat in my possession.They are still on my horsewhen I got far enough I watched and saw the rebels were making a search for me.I saw the one who took my property come close."

"And what did you do.!"

"I watched him closely and when he passed my hiding place, I followed after him quietly, and when he got off about a square from the clearing, I caught up with him, and touched him on the back with my drawn pistol.He gave a little jump."See here you Glandelinian skung cat"I said"give me back my home map and things, or I'll shoot yo in the back."

He put on a savage look, and said-"Don't you fool with me, or I'll fetch you one on the ear,and I said, if you do, I'll pump you full of holes.N ow hand over or I'll shoot."Seeing I was in earnest, he got pale, and handed over the map, and other things, but said another rebel had the handkerchief.I tied him securely to a tree, with long weeds and went in search of the handkerchief."

"That wasn't a bad adventure after all." commented Gertrude, forgetting her resolution to be stern,and uncompromising with the young scrapegrace."Then of course you started to find your way back."

"No, Miss Aronburg,I began to think how bad my sister would feel when she learned what had become of her pretty christia christmas present, and how bad you girls would feel if I didn't bring some proof!!!-)"

"Don't be sentimental now." cried the girls in disgust."Go on the with story."

"James Green Stared.

"Did you step on a Glandelinian soldiers toes like you did me." said Jennie turner with a grin.

"No I didn't have the chance to. So I thought I'd go back,and see what were my chances for the map and the pretty handkerchief.When I got within sight of a squad of mounted glandelinians it all seemed to be arranged just the way I wanted it.The men were grouped far apart evidently looking for me, and the fellow who was closest had my ni nice handkerchief flying round his neck.They were fiercer than I t thought in their looks, but I saw a good chance.I didn't stop to stare but came came riding up softly from behin d, and grabbed that handkerchief, pulling him off his horse with a crash,and kept right on through the woods without stopping to say anything."

"Good work." said the girls unable to contain their enthusiasm."Go on."

"I did gon go on and believe me.I raced. They gave a yell as they saw me race away and before I got half way down the road through the clearing there was a roar as of horses following after me, and two swift riders were close to my horse on two sides, and one crossed my path and got in my way, and I would then had been caught if I hadn't brought him down with a shot, and as I broke through the thers kept yelling, and more of them came, and just as I got to the forest where I lost you Miss Aronburg a lot of lances and things came sailing after me, and one of them seemed to have hit me on the leg,and than my horse was stumbling and I went into an awful quagmire, and had to

shoot and shoot to keep them at bay untlll I ploughed to the other side, and ccovered with mud recovered my horse.Just as I started again to rafe ruee away I rode plump against a horseman with red hair, and wi and our horses went sprawling. As he got up he attacked me but I killed him, recovered my steed and rode on."

"Here James lost his breath.

"I don't know how I ever got away from those Glandelinians alive..The last thing I did was to kick a Glandelinian officer in the ribs as I rode past him he howled cursed, and blasphemed as if he was crazy, and then I was half way down the road.There was a roar of shots and bullets whistled about me but I wasn't hit.finally after riding a short distance, I looked round then,and found they were not chasing me.Then I got off some of the mud and started for camp.And now Girls I'm sorry for the mishap and awful hungry.I haven't eaten for eighteen hours."

And James looked at the girls pathetically.

"Had you any more encounters." !

"Yes girls."

"Oh so you did."

"Yes.I encountered a girl refugee.I had noticed the sad face of the poor girl and I had ridden up to her, who with her shoulders raised and her head depressed was creeping away, and touched her lightly on the shoulder.

"L ave me alone"cried the girl to me getting scared."You are a rebel boyscout and you and me is not friends."

"No I am not"I said."Here girl you need this money and food more than I do."and I pressed it into the girls hands."I8it's all I've got with me me but I wish it was more." And then I turned away and as I walked on light of heart and happy that I escaped the enemy and was about to mount the horse some one touched me on the shoulder"Say exclaimed the girl allout of breath for I realized she had raced again up to me,"Say boy I'll never forget you.Do you cat h catch on?I should have said something to improve the occasion by saying something, but I could not find words to speak.I merely grinned gave her a hearty hand squzze squeeze, and asked her to accompany me to campfor safty which after some argument I finally persuaded her to do.Jean is taking care of her now."

Gertrude was so pleased with the boys inference that she gave him a quarter of an hours slighter scolding,ending with a lecu lecture, which she valsalveged with a promotion paper,and a good evening meal.

It was nine o clock at night. Jack Sanders had arisen from his knees after saying his evening pra ers prayers, and then seemed to find some difficulty in getting off his uniform shirt.He was gazing very hard at James Green through a sort of lattice work of some kind formed by the bosom of his shirt, which was now concealing his little head. In this dramatic attitude he stood still till James got into bed.Then Jack Sanders with a sudden jerk brings the shirt back to its normal postib position on his shoulders and said quite sternly;

"James did you not forget something.????"

"No I didn't.What was it."

"You did forget something."

"What?"

"You forgot to kienl down before going to bed tosay your night prayers.Hop out and kneel down."

"Mind your own business young man."

In answer to which, Jack sat sown down on a bench and began to whistle softly.

"Stop that noise Jack and go to bed.It's past taps."

Jack did not obey,and continuing his whistling a little louder, arose, walked over to another bench, and throwing a blanket about himself lay back with his eyes fixed upon Greens astonished face.Then there was a long pause during which James and Jack looked at each other steadily.

"What are you staring at?" growled James raising his head and leanin g upon his elbow.

"I' I'm looking at your night camp James.It sure makes you look so queer."

"Get off that bench and come to bed."

"Not in that bed no sir."

"And why not sir???"

"you did not yet say your prayers. Suppose the demons were to come rig round to night, they might get things mixed up, and take me for you.Then there would be a pretty how do do."

Jack was entirely in earnest,and he spoke with fi funereal gravity.

James still hesitated.

Jack arose.

"If you don't kneel down and say your prayers, sir, I'll report to you Master Penrod."

J mes James sighed.Jack indeed had hit upon the best means of subdioung him.He arose from the bed, and said his prayers, while Jack slowly undressed, then goijg going to his valise took out a bottle containing holy water, which he proceeded to sprinkle over the bed, indi incidentally and purposly dousing the astonished Green in the face. Then witha sigh he retired.He intended then to

ask Green whether he was a Catholic or not(Non catholics cannot be boyscouts in the Abbiennian army) but he fell asleep before the time came for carrying outthis pious intention. Of course Green was unusually docile on this great occassion.But Jacks threat was not an idle one.That very day a telegram had reached Miss Sanders announcing that the Vivian Girls were missing fromthe army and a country wide search was being made for them.and the one person in the world so far whom James Green feared was Schoefiled Penrod, and he stillll remembered vividly too'(though it was not mentioned in the books) their painful encounter sometime after the battle of Delights Junction, and he knew what a severe character Penrod was.By morning on the sixth of August Penrod was the first to assemble all the boy and girlscouts in an open clearing .Penrod unbent so far as to give some of his boy friends a kiss.Then Jean said to Jack Sanders who was one of the boys who had returned f from the search of Green;

"Jack dear"You must have recieved an awful shock when the Glandelinians surprised you too."

"No I didn't Jean, it was just nothing at all.When my horse was killed under me I fell down all of a heap, and picked myself up as good as new."

Indeed Jack made light of the matter, he knew Jean and he had no intention of being plied with questions for a week. Gertrude then rode up.

"Roll down your stocking, Jack, I must see where you have been hit by the nenemy."

"Do you take me for a tattooed man?"exclaimed the young boy scout indignantly.

"Pulll down your stocking." said Penrod.

And when Jack with commendable promptl ness exhibited the bandage over the part where a glancing bullet had struck him, some of the more emotional girls rullbdout their handkerchiefsand began to cry.Poor gentle little girls.

"Oh I say girls, don't"exclaimed Jack earnestly.He was a warm hearted little fellow indeed, and under a boyish mask oflevity,and former carelessness, concealed the great love he bore for all his girl and boy scouts. In answer to this remonstrance, Jean threw her arms about him and kissed and hugged him till he blushed as red as a rose;

"Why doesn't somebody take notice of me that way?" queried James Green, who felt that he was being ignored.

"I think I'll pull up my stocking." said Jack now really embrassed."Why there is no use in making such a fuss about.All of us that risk perils get shot a lot worse, and don't say a word."

"Jack dear"said one of the girls who had her cry out, and who was now after the manner of her e sexthroughoutly renewed,"You do not look quite well yet, you have lost your color.Maybe its the shock of your wound. "

"Gracious goodness." exclaimed Jack, turning his face to a looki g looking glace on a tree."Every one call me pale, when my face looks all the world like its a beet, a-a-a

"A Ma m or better still an Indian in his war paint." interpolated James Green.

"You don't say. After this Master Green wait till you told to speak and then you can say things like that" Jack Shot back.

"James Green" Gertrude went on, after bestowing a withering glance upon him"Just look at Jack Sanders."

"I have been looking at him these last five minutes Miss Aronburg."

"Don't get fresh.Can't you see that he is badly shaken after all his tour looking for you yesterday?"

"He was pretty badly shaken when the Gl ndelinians almost got hold of him. But if you mean to say he is sick, I must give it as my opinion that he never looked better in his life.As for that wound its nothing. "

"Boys like you I ssuppose haveno feelings." exclaimed one of the other girls with unusual bitterness."

"They can see through a doughnut, when there's a good size hole in it." said Penrod, grinnin g at his own wit.

"Now Jack, tell us all about that dreadful day."Said Angeline Richee."By the way Master Green"she continued"Are there any other boys like you in this camp."!

"Two.!"

"Two well that's plenty."

"You can't have too many." continued Green."

"We might attatch a fools cap to you." suggested Jean dryly."You would present an interesting spectacle goung round campwith a fools cap on your head."And she gave him a look---such a look, then turned to Jack, and withmany a question succeeded in getting from him some account of his search for James and his almost calamitious experience with parties of the enemy.

"Wasn't he brave indeed." she exclaimed, when he had det iled his experience in crossing a stream pursued by a forest fire."He might have been burned or drowned."

"If he had any sense at al"said the practical James Green"He would have felt around for bridges to begin with in stead of risking his life."

"Yes"said Angeline Richee"and if you were not a gosh darned home head you'd mind your own business Master Green.Any more wise cracks out of you and you'll be doing time in the guard house on bread and water for a week."

However his impertinence offended Angeline Richee whofort forwith proceeded to narrate how James had been missing,during the recital Penrods brow clouded.

"I don't like it." he observed at the end."If you had not been able to prove your experience we could hold you for desertion.Indeed sir you don't know what a treasure you've really got when a scout in this army, and you a Irish foreigner.Indeed few boys would give all their money and their best suits rather than leave this camp And few boyscouts who are supposed to be gentlemen would stay out all night in a forest, and run into danger headlessly, and then not so reckless as you did when you fought to recover your good for nothing handkerchief.And you call Jack Reckless."

I forgot Master Penrod."

"And continued the stern boyscout leader, whose very love for his work made him a severe judge"It's very foolish to allow yourself to be lost from Miss Aronburg our best girlscout when she trusted you with her, but whose fault was it.Only yours of course.."

"She gave me no signal, sir and besides I only got lost.The woods was so thick ,there was so much smoke and I couldn't see a thing."

"And then" Penrod was resuming."You should have gone back to camp immediately after you found you've lost Gertrude."

"It was her fault too"put in James getting in return a savage scowl from Miss Aronburg."It was not."She said.

"And you should have taken care of her."

"Well sir I meant to do right."

"I'm sure you meant right, James but you must be careful, and get over that habit of trailing on peoples toes. My big toe is sore yet from the way you walked on it the day before yesterday and I let it go at that.Remember by your actions your getting ready for your departure.So be careful if you don't want to recieve your discharge papers."

Penrod it may be remarked was somewhat Jansenistic in his ideas.All during Miss Richees account of James experience and how it came about he had been deliberating whether the boy were of a fit age and character and mentality and disposition for remaining in the camp as a scout.He ,liked the boy but did not understand him.

"By the way girls." he said turning to Gertrude"If you wish to have a last look at the fire swept city before dinner, we'd better start at once.Of course you'll come with us Jack."

"Hurrah "Cried Jack, regaining his spirits. James wanted to come too but at this point the girls failed him.They would not permit him to come.

Before they started Gertrude said dramatically-

"Penrod, will you please look at that wall of smoke far to the north."

"I'm tired looking at that wall of smoke, Gertrude."

"And do you mean to say that you are willing to expose our whole force in the face of the blinding fury of that nearer stretch of the forest fire!"

And Gertrude was not carried into exaggeration by her anxietty for the welfare of her comrade .The fire was a dangerous one by but by no means as small as she might have said it was.

"Pshaw"cried Jack,"it ain't dangerous."

"I don't see no particular risk." said Gertrudeo side-de camp."

"In this present situation"continued Gertrude firmly"It would be absolute sucide to go in that direction."

"Do you take me for a wax doll!" growled Penrod.

But despite all protests, Gertrude had her will, for she was right, and right always wins.

One of the girls who was more softer presented James Green with a box of candy and cautioning him to avoid future blunders, the good little lady departed with the other girls and two boys leaving behind her a very discontentad young boyscout indeed.Jack was in the lead of the party punching candy and watching everything from left to right.

"Those Glandelinian boyscouts must be queer fellows if they go round scouting different than we do." he said to himself."I'm glad we don't meet with any of them here." The ensuing hour passed very slowly.He gave most of the time gazing ruefully about the ruins.The smoke continued to overspread the region in a thin fog-pring of this he at length took to examining the remaining walls of a ruined building and he was thumputting himself into a happor frame of mind, when someone came riding up to him.Thinking it was Gertrude or others of the girlscouts he hastened to meet them himself, but instead he saw coming a very small boy, with a very wonzan face, and a very large package under his arm.

"Hallon"said Jack.

"Are you looking for something here, or would you like to have some money from the ruins sir?"

"It isn't my property,and besides I'm not the leader of the party." explained Jack."but if you like I'll go and ask her."

"Thank you sir,"said the very small boy.

Jack returned presently,with the news that the leader of the party would have the city abandoned soon as the trip is resumed up north to morrow.

"Thank you sir." and the little boy touched his hat and muffled. Jack was touched.

"I say little chap, won't you have some candy."

"Thank you sir."The small boy did recieve the handful of peperminte with a smile.

"How much would you charge for guiding me through these ruins as far as no one else dares to penetrate!" persued Jack.

"Fifty cents is the regular price I think, but I'll charge two bits sir!"

"Is that all you'll charge!"

"I don't know exactly.I never tried guiding before."

"How does a dollar and fifty cents do!" continued Jack."

"That's too much."

"Not for you.You are not used to the work, and it may take you twice as long to do it as a man who is used to the guiding work.That is why I'll pay you three times as much."

This was Jacks first expression of opinion in this work.The very small boy was presently working away with a will leading his smiling friend through almost impassable passages among the ruins.

"Where is your guiding stick!" asked Jack after a silence of five minutes as he surveyed the ruins of a factory."

"I ain't got any sir."

"Here"cried Jack"is a long piece of wood.Use it."

"Please sir I don't want it thank you."

Indeed the small boy was very modest.

"Who asked you whether you wanted it or not!Youare in my employment now and you've got to do what you are told.Come back here and take this stick.What is your name." continued Jack, as he handed the lad the long pole."

"James Fredrickson sir."

"Call me Jack or I'll be mad at you.I like your name.I got a number of Fredricks in my command and they are good boys too."

James smiled in a good way, and resumed his leadership.One moment later a rock took him on the back of the head.Also something hit Jack, but when the two looked around no one was in sight.

"I did it"said the honest but undignified boyscout George as he came running down a sloping hill of wreckage.Say little boy you're tired are you not!"

"No sir."

"Yes you are indeed, let me catch a hold of that stick.I'll bet I'll manage it better than you can."

Aghast the boy yelled, and the three continued on till they came in sight of the girls some distance before them.

"There's the girls amidst the ruins of the Courthouse." exclaimed Jack."Now we have found our way.Here's your dollar and fifty cents Fredricks."

"Thank you sir"said the boy simply."It's for mamma.I came from a refugee camp at far away."

"Take some more candy." said Jack."

"No thank you.Good bye sir."

"Hold on, lets meet the girls."

"Fredrickson grinned.

"There are some of them at that very corner." continued Jack.

The little boy was about to speak when a sound not unlike a scream startled the three lads lads.

"Why Jack"cried Angeline Richee turning the corner of a wrecked house with Penrod,"Glandelinians are looking for us all over.Go load the way this instn instant.Are your pistols in good working order.We were chassed from one end of the ruins to another.Didn't you see any."

"No"said Jack:"I've been having this boy lead me. Say Angeline" he added in a low tone, to"this little chap has a sick mother in a refugee camp.Give him a dollar, and I'll do anything you like."

"You will indeed!Then I'll give him two."

Jacks promise promise cost him a hectic time, but he bore it bravely and already fourteen Glandelinians bit the dust.He felt an uneasy feeling somewhere within as if their peril was greater than she believed it was, and did not know what to make of it.Like the young spartian with the fox gnawing at his vitals he tried to bear his misery and fears with unchanged demeanor. Glandelinians were all around all right, and finally during a fierce fusillade of shooting a ball glanced off his arm.

"I'm hit here." said Jack l aying his hand pathetically upon the wound and trying to stop the blood.The weapon dur ng the shooting fray she took him to cover, and placed a clean rag round the gash, and seating herself beside the boy held watch till she was sure he was all right.In ten ten butes minutes he wanted to get up.

"You've got to bear it, Jack dear."

"I prefer to go out and fight the Glandelinians." growled the invalid. He attempted to get up tut she was obdurate.Then he begged for a glass of water determined once she left to go ahead and shoot some more of the enemy.But she sent someone else for the water.

"I think Angeline, you'd better let me shook some more of those "Cats" implored "Jack when the watch had gone seventeen minutes."I'm perfectly well

,heart, and my heart burns awfully to get at the m. "

But Angeline Richee mounted guard, till twenty five minutes had passed. His wound had stopped bleeding.The girl bent on making assurance doubly sure, now produced some salve and bandaged the wounded properly and let him go ahead but cautioned him to keep under cover. When she came back from some obscure part of the ruins she was horrified to find him dancing about the street apparently in an ecstacy of joy.

"Jack you reckless, careless boy,.What are you doing now."

"I was celebrating, for the foe is worsted." he answered, somewhat discomfitted at being discovered,and highly was astonished at seeing that she had a coil of rope in her hands.

"Celebrating what?"

"The Clandalinians have stopped the attack.I feel so good that we beat them.But I say Angeline you are not going to hang yourself are you."

"No Jack, I'm not that "dizzy"but sit down there, and I'll tell you all about it."

Curiously gave Jacks obedience a generous amount of promptness.Then Angeline gravely tied one end of the rope to the post in the street.

"It's a strong rope Jack, and it will stand the strain."

"The astonished lad lad indeed began to fear that the girl was losing her mind.

"What strain.?"

"Jack pay attention to me, "I'm going to have this stake pulled up.It's a good swining weapon you know.If we are attacked suddenly you know, you can hurl this about in all swings.You are handy at swinging weapons like this you know. "

"Do you really think, Angeline, that the enemy is trying to destroy every one of us."?

"We don't know what may happen"said the girlscout."There are storms of war and fires and floods and battles and other horrors all over the country.Now lets proceed as the others are homeward bound.Wait here though till I come back."

Angeline had not gone for about twominutes, when she hastened back and then she gave a gasp.He was not there.

"Jack, Jack"she called.

"Yes'm."

The voice was from a recession of ruins beyond.Ah she saw it all now as with a suppressed scream she hurried over to the debris following the course of the rope.

Jack was just about getting up.A man in a grey uniform lay on the ground still."

"The wretch---God forgive me--my dear Jack what a on earth are you doing."?

"Testing your new weapon, Angeline.It's immense.He attacked me unawares and threw me down here but I fixed him. I did not let go of the rope either."

He crawled up again and resumed the trip back tward camp

"I say he "p he protested"How will we get back through this smoke haze?"

"I'll open the door for you Jack." said Penrod jokingly.

"All right go ahead."

They however managed to get out, and found their camp safe and sound.

GENERAL MYLETZE, THE CLANDALINIAN GENERAL WHICH
NEARLY DESTROYED VIVIANIAS ARMY AT RICHEES FARM, STARTS SOME
UNUSUAL THING. WARNING OF VEN AND MANY ESCAPES BUT MANY ALSO
PERISH. DEVASTATION NEAR A FAIR CHRISTIAN ARMY.
IN WHICH GENERAL VIVIANIA HOLDS A COUNCIL OF WAR.
FRIGHTFUL STORMING OF THE CHRISTIAN POSITIONS AT LEBANON CREEK.
BLOODY FIGHTING. WHAT GERTRUDE MEANS....."

During the meantime while the girls were having their troublesome efforts to reach Emperor Viviens army, and before the very world had time to realize realize the extent of the great disasters of war devastating Calvorinia and her sister states, humanity was to soon recieve a second shock from the region of Myletze's "Glorious "aAngelinia Agathia Campaign.He was in possession of Richees farm and though he had not been able to drive Vivianis from it after the recent part battles he planned some other means to drive it out so he could continue his movements tward Angelinia Agathia The two armies before this had passed through a terrible baptism of fire only less terrible in number of dead, than that which followed the disasters of war As the girls had recently heard from a courair Myletzes generals had ordered engineers to release the flood on Richees farm, and they had obeyed the injunction, although the floods had shown signs of threatening the places even earlier than the first actions on Richee's farm.Indeed the flood had been threatening to engulf the farms for nine consecutive mornings previous to the date of the battles of Richee's farm. On the morning of July the 31th 1913 the day broke with heavy thunders from many Clandalinian cannons, which soon changed into a continuous tremendious roar. This was done to hide the real designs of the Clandalinian plans.Forest fires anew were started to the south of the armies, and vast columns of smoke rose over the hills, becoming denser and denser, and shrouds like hail fell upon the christian positions and upon the adjacent estates destroying a vast amount of property.At Chateau Belaris a demonstration was made against the christian army.The action extended to Kingtown, where a column of Clandalinians two deep moved forward, and many large artillery batteries opened upon St George Town.The earth shook violently from the roar of so many guns, and at four oclock in the afternoon from the smoke of the fires a midnight darkness spread over the country. However the storm of artillery roared about the region all night without cessation, but on the following morning it became intermittant and fainter.All this was going to to keep the christian generals from discovering the real designs of the enemy.It was conservatively estimated that twenty two thousand five hundred soldiers of the christian side were killed and wounded in this artillery storm.They included most of the Abyssinkilian gunners, which meant practical extinction of this troop of gunners.From Santa Maria the eruptions of explosions by the shells was visible during the night of July the 31th.

Before carrying out the plans general Myletze gave orders to general Hue Baum Hie-Whirther to try and force his way to Kingstown.He attempted this with a large division of troops but he was assaulted by troops of Concentinians and for three hours his division was practically helpless, and he could not either retreat or advance untill large bodies of troops was sent to his assistance and drove back the assailants.When his division was finally reached by the reinforcements it was found attacked on three sides, and absolutely panic stricken.The ground was covered wit with swarms of dead and wounded Clandalinian soldiers. They were drawn back to shelter under a severe fire from the christian guns.Kingstown Junction was fifteen miles from Richees farm, and the enemy was also attacked there.From Chateau Belaire word came to Myletze that the distress was great, and the loss heavy. He sent general Carl Turner to restore order, and he was killed as he led his troops.

In trying to break the christian line to follow out his plan Myletze did not make good progress.Myletze during the action went out to scout along levees to see how his plans would work.From some levees or through them flowed hundreds of streams of small water flows, which uniting and separating formed a flood from which if there was a bad break there was no possible escape for any living thing caught within its grasp.The The water had reached one of the fires and the hissing of steam could be heard for miles.From a distance a or dozens of fires could be seen.He could see the force of the christian attack seemed to be lessening for a time and he honed the time would arrive for his plan.Many scouting parties were sentout.Seven estates were found to be in ruins from his shell fire.Many houses were demolished, and two country chapels had been burned and wrecked.He saw that on the North Levee of the Aronburge Run he had a chance but it had to be accomplished under cover of darkness, and there was hardly a spot in the territory that already was not under from ten inches to two feet of muddy waters.

General Jennets Glandelinian Brigade on July 31th ran through or charged through five miles of christian positions in the face of such fierce firing that survivin g soldiers were nearly suffocated by the thick powder smoke.For more than an hour a series of fierce assaults had been kept up on a twenty mile front, and two hours later the Glandelinians had lost all the five miles of ground they had gained with dreadful losses. Myletze had been determined to resort to his desperate plans because for more than two weeks or over, general Vivianin had continually threatened to bring on assaultupon Myletzes grand armies more majestic and fierce than had been seen by any great general during all wars of the last probably five or ten thousand years. During the battles of Richees farm which had lasted in series of conflicts nearly a month, general Vivianins armies had stretched for nearly fouty fourty eight miles.Since he began his campaign Myletze had been winning battles, regularly, and easily.On rare occassions it had been even held in serious chedk check, the christian arm ies opposed to him up to the battles of Casaplainia had been regarded as harmless by Myletzes Glandelinian generals, who told of their voctiores so easily won.

Two weeks after the Casaplainia fighting, greater christian armies under this fighter general Riches closed upon him, and Myletze has been in the vinicity of Riches's farm yet, and saw no means as except to flood the christian army out to continue his advance.If flood would not work, he would have to retreat him- self and leave general Vivianin riches in the field.

His plans could not be carried out as soon as he had expected to carry them out.On the day of the battle of Chateau Belaire July the 31th he had failed to break any portion of the christian line and suffered the loss of 2,500,000 killed where the christian loss was only two hundred and fifty thousand in killed and wounded.For many hours after the battle the christian armies made dead demonstrations in a manner such as was new to the present day. Then Myletze getting nervious, made a d a desperate effort to carry out his plot. The flood meanwhile became greatly disturbed by winds from heated forest fire hurricanes, and he decided to take advantage of it.The waters of the Sanitary Creek began to boil and bubble like a great caldron, and steam arose from it in immense clouds.

He decided to open a new artillery fire upon the christian batteries, and under cover of the storm of firec attempt to break a levee of the flooded Aronburgs Run,even if a part of his camps too should be flooded for his plain aims. However he was again frustrated, the christian batteries increased their thunders in redoubled for c, and at two oclock the ground and hills about from the concussion trembled as though they were in the throes of a terrible agony, and Myletzes losses was dreadful to behold.Then came a series of severe earthquakes that shook the entire region caused by the christians letting go a terrific broadside of high explosives.That night the artillery fire did not slack up and something like sulphuric flames played along the opposing lines of batteries giving the region a weird and most fearful appearance. Myletze watched the steam still continuing to rise from the heated waters of Sanitary Creek, and the thunders of the shells exploding in the sky were joined fearfully with those that came from the christian and Glandelinian batteries.All during the night the splendid horror continued.It was just before the coming of day that the levee broke from the very concussion itself, a great gap suddenly opened, sending six immense streams of p water pouring in boiling foam over the landscapes.The christian positions lower down had to be immediately abandoned, the farm was quickly vacated, and death was everywhere in its most terrible forms.Lightning fromshell explosions came from the sky, the fragments killing many who had escaped the ravaging sudden flood that was pouring over the landscapes sweeping away so many christian tents and wagons.For this great tragedy the settings were wonderful, and still the artillery duel continued with redoubled fury.The landscape literally rocked as if the world was in agony.Though Myletze succeeded in making the flood, t a christian shell hit his mut munition store and from the explosion a majestic column of smoke, inky black reached skyward and there was a terrible earsplitting crash that shook the air.The batteries in opening general fire looked like rounded craters in hundreds vomiting incandescent matter, and certain bombs seemed to give forth primsatic lights as they flashed forth.

By noon of August the 2th, the army under vivianin under cover of its battery having lost thirty thousand men drowned had to retreat to far higher ground undercover of their artillery, and toprevent a greater disaster the christian artillery fire was directed tward the Glandelinian infantry, which threatened to move forward in great waves,and to hedge forward to take advantag of the retreat caused by the flood.

Such thunder as never was heard by man cracked and rolled through the heavens from bursting shells.Apparently from the earth came tremendous detonations.These joined with the thunder, all merging in a most incessant roar, that added to the confusion of the retreating christian columns.This flood horror and artillery fire of the enemy lasted through the night. The christian guns hit something again and a huge column of smoke so black as to appear like coal arosed to uncestimated height of a thousand feet from the ground.Debris dirt and rocks were hurled skyward mingled with water in this column to deluge the region and the christian armies while it continued its retreat.Gradually the column mushroomed at the top spreadingout into dense clouds that descended to bring night that morning for a few minutes.

During such a tremendous artillery discharge, and so many terrific explosions, the atmosphere was so laden with sulphurious gases from the powder smoke that at times breathing was made almost impossible. General vivianin believed that his whole army might be destroyed by the ravaging flood, and while the retreat continued, the whole time was given up a to as many prayers as was time to be said.All that time the horrors, and confusion of such a battle was beyond description, and the earth quaked incessantly.The hills shook,and so terrible were the thunders that it seemed that the universe was being rent to pieces.

The christian artillery being on too high ground to be touched by the flood done the best work, and finally winning caused a slight respite by the morn ing of th e 3th.The batteries became less active.Then all was quiet.Then the officers of the christian troops having secured higher positions at Lebanon Hills ventured out in scouting tours to take stock of the wonderful ruin that had been wrought.

Because of the flood all areas of c ltivation were found to have been destroyed by the force swp swift wash of the waters.The christian works betwmen the Malibou and Richmondi creek plantations were torn up by shell fire and the smaller guns dismounted.This region too was partly under water which had been swept as if by a tidal wave from the sea.Twenty other plantations were gone, and the christian army had lost nearly half of the number of tents and provisions it had.Where the fires had swept that entire district was a smoking incinerated ruin.Ashes were everywhere no 1 place being less than two or three feet deep with smouldering tree trunks laying over them and in some places the flood had rolled over these burned areas causing enormous clouds of hot steam.Every artillery man who had manned the front batteries had been killed or wounded.If there was a survivor he was not fou d found. All vegetation in this locality had also disappeared.Not a sprig of green was to be seen on the long stretch of devastated battlefields.Live stock had died.Houses had vanished.Rivers were boiling dry and in their beds ran blood. Everywhere north of Chateau Belaire were the dead bodies of the soldiers of both sides, some half buried in mud, others showing they had been stricken down by shell fire and bullets.A great number seemed to have been gored with grape and canister and bayonets.Decomposition seemed to be almost immediate.During the interval of quiet now reigning the many dead were buried as rapidly as possible.Kingstown was safe, the flood had not touched it, the christian troops under Mic-Cantler Costellio were still in possession, but Georgetown was in the possession of the foe,and it had suffered frightfully from shell fire.Even when the violent battle had ceased the air was still filled with smoke, and the heat of the atmosphere created intense thirst and causing such suffering as can hardly be imagined by those not in the district of such battles.Some of the terrific explosions of the battle were heard for nearly one hundred miles, and it was these that the girls had heard while exploring the ruins those days, and they had thought they proceeded from the forest fires.Following is the story of the personal experience of a Foriegn correspondent!

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"The battle raging at Chateau Belaire could be seen from St Lucia Town ten miles away, and in fact the noise could be heard for ninty miles.I was asked y by the aurthorities of the city of Adronto go as near as possible and report.I left St Luciacity at six oclock on the evening of the first day of the battle, just after Roddams troops had returned from St Pierre to reinforce general Vivianin Riches.Terrible smoke from the battle field was visivble during my entire journey.At midnight I thought I saw volcanoes in eruption apparently about four miles away.I ran into a fire started either by the enemy or the frightful battle and I was almost suffocated by the smoke.The atmosphere was so fe dense that I could see nothing at all.I turned my horse about and rode to the west for two hours and a half before I was cl ar of the smoke of the fires.At three oclock in the morning I put back tward the battle as the noise of cannons had increased, and was again compelled to retrace my steps as I was entering the shell firezone.I arived at Kingstown at about five oclock in the morning.It was seen then that the Glandelinian batteries were in dread ful and violent action, and there was a tremendous roar as the christians were responding.Seemingly lightning flashes played incessantly over the disturbed section.The flashes averaged from six hundred and sixty to one thousand a minute to my estimation. Kingstown city which is twelve miles from the actual scene of battle was inundated with about ten inches of water.The drive of the enemy according to what I heard was observed on the last of July and the people in that district fled.

Huge volumes of water shot up when explosions occured in the flooded districts.The northern districts of the battlefield was completely destroyed.It was impossible to proceed beyond that point both on account of the flood, and because of getting too near the dangerous enemy.The whole districts of country not touched by water is smoking, and the Na'ionals are retreating tward Lebanon Creek near the hills of the same name.Sixty Glandelinian officers some of them high generals are reported to have been killed as they led onslaughts against the christian line.Near Belaire the Glandelinian losses are the heaviest.everything is ruined by shell fire and flood.Many refugees of the battle were brought in boats from Kingstown city.

Two quarters of the refugees who arived further north were dying of thirst. Many of these people have been fourty six hours without a drop of water.All the cattle were dead because of the lack of water.Those who dared to drnk of the flood waters were posioned and died.There is little [illegible] in the surviving

in the surivin surviving villiam's, and I cannot could not go into the interior to investigate the extent of the disasterous battle because the enemy was too close.It is impossible to say how many perished on the enemy side, but the christian side lost two million in killed wounded and missing, and about thirty thousand extra drowned when the enemy flooded the territory.I never saw a christ ian army so disasteriously worsted, and under so able a commander.The only position Myletz has not secured is at Kingstown,and even there the Christians won't let me even come in.We left the neighborhood at eight oclock that evening of the disaster with orders to"get out"or be taken as a spy.A quarter of a point off Barroulle Creek, we recieved a message from a mysterious source that passage was impossible, and that neither side would allow us through.

Nevertheless we proceeded on our trip.I defied both, though I was against neither not knowing the station of their cause.When opposite Beliaria there was a grand view of the western section of the recoiling christian troops.Rivers of troops were moving up the low slopes along the Sanitary Creek in every direct ion under cover of their batteries.The enemys positions for the full extent though quiet seemed covered with smoke as if there was an incessant eruption.

Somtimes a great explosion ocured and great quanities of debris were blown into the air, and were falling tward the flood, and smoke obscured for a few minutes everything.A 1 new column wasobserved moving tward the christian left for half a mile and I couldn't tell whether it was the enemy or those of the other side.It was probably a demonstration from the enemy.The column of the column at that distance seemed of a brownish gray colum color.It was impossible to get close to Kingstown as the Nationals permitted no strangers to enter.

The flood was littered with trees and other wreckage."

This story he was telling to the girls for he had arived on August the third. He continued as Gertrude questioned him"We attempted to proceed to St Lucia city through the much of smoke from fires but found it impossible.It meant either burning, or suffocation to try it.We returned and entered the belt again miles out from the battle field but there was the same result.On the horizon there was nothing to be seen but smoke which were piled up like an enormous rolling wall, and inside that belt all was dark.I believed Myletz meant to worst general vivianis by shell fire, flames, assault and flood combined at the same time.We retraced our steps and rode down the boiling sanitary Creek. Opposire George Town Run we encountered a column of glandelinian troops marching past, and we had to hide as they looked like Turmeralinans.To the north the entire territory of the disturbed district was clearly visible. Be Besides the large col umns of Glandelinian troo s troops numrous small ones were in movement.Many squadrons of cavarly were moving northward, one of them two miles and a half long.When we were close to George town we passed to the south along the flood range tward St Lucia City,and saw no sign of battle having raged there, but the town was inundated.I believe it'll be virtually impossible to approach the battle stricken districts of that tertitory as long as Myletze remains there.While I was there there was some rumblings of artillery, and at first I thought I had heard something like subterranean noises but I was mistaken.I was told the enemy made two tremendous onslaughts during that awful day and that large stones hurled by explosions fall in the neighborhood of Georgetown terrifying the people there into flight who thought a mountain near by had become a volcano and was in eruption.And Girls most horrifying details of the conditions of the country, where thousands of artillery horses and cattle and soldiers lay mang mangled by shell fire.Although the number of Glandelinian dead is estimated at nearly two million, and of fifteen million wounded up to the night after the battle only one hundred and fiftten thousand had been buried.Undiscovered bodies no doubt are covered with water now.In a s a small shell blasted shed eighty seven bodies were discovered and not one of them could be recognized.In the dwelling house of Richees farm thirty glandelinian soldiards were found in a similar condition, and other sickening discoveries were made showing the power of christian shell fire.A large number of wounded had been brought to Kingstown many suffering from fractured skull, bullet and shell wounds and a majority of them having beyonst state.Although attended with smaller loss of life, this battle was not less violent than the battle of Richees farm.The fact I suppose that the loss of life was smaller than in the Richee battle was due to the positions of both sides, that the battle was mostly with artillery, and that the christian armies had been in strongerpositions, and the infantry assaults were few.Many villiagers who were bold enough to remain from curiousity to see the battle were killed..The total number of bodies found and buried so far was only one hundred thousand. One hundred and thirty five thousand christian injured are in the camp hospitals and many had been abandoned during the retreat.All the immediate want of the survivors have now been supplied through the aid rendered by the neighboring columns of troops.Two hou thousand horses have been lost.Nine of the best farm estates have been seriously damaged by shell fire and flood. The outlook girls is most serious.Three million persons are on the relief list at an cost of one hundred and fifty dollars per week.It is expected that the number of lives lost on the enemy side will reach two million."

"The battle was be more severe than you think it was "said Angeline Riche sadly disap ointed over the news of her fathers defeat."

"I'm afraid it was, but you see I couldn't get near enough for details.The whole territory is covered with flood waters where Vivianis had his camps before, and only the tops of trees are to be seen.Lucky the flood came gradual or the whole of Vivianise army would have perished.In some small huts nearer the inundation over thirty bodies of animals have been found.The whole of the country is reeking with the stench of battle smoke, and the surviving wounded are being collected in all parts of the fields beyond the battle zone, where they recieve medial care and provisions saved by the army.The enemys lines are still"grumbling" and a renewed outbreak is feared."

"You say while the battles at Richees farm caused a greater death list, more territory was ruined by this recent battle than the former and that because of it there is greater destitution among the rogu refugees there.".'!!!!!"

"Yes. The injured christian soldiers were horribly mangled by the shell fragments that were driven with tremendous velocity by the explosions.Twenty six officers of all rank were all killed!One general was brained with a huge stone flung at him by an explosion.Of course burial commenced immediately after the battle ceased, and the christian had to do it, because the glandelinian prisoners refused to dig any trenches under any con d conditions or whatever penalty, though they were threatened all kinds of punishments by the local au thoriti s of the army.The nurses employed were incompent but willing to learn and work hard. The Glandelinian prisoners were indifferent to all that had taken place, and there were instances when just to refuse the christians any thing they refused to bury their own dead comrades.

.The arival of the first detatchments of the military ambulances corps which brought suffering wounded to near by towns and to the rea r of the chrs christian lines caused a great sensation....... This force of wounded consisted of five hundred thousand wounded of both sides, whose mangled bodies exhaled fetid odors, and whose loathsome wounds made even the surgeons and hospital attendants shudder.All these wounded soldiers were suffering fearfully from their wounds and also thirst, and uttered, w en when strong enough to do so agnoising cries for water.."

"I want to ask you something"said Gertrude."Something important."Yesterday I observed in a paper that a lake known as Fiend lake about two miles wide and six long which occupied a region densely forested has disappeared becau se of the heat of forest fires surrounding it."

"I do not know"said the Correspondent, "but I've heard of it, and news paper men say it can be confirmed.They say a sea of fire now rages over that whole region and that huge volumes of steam steam rises like huge volumes of gigantic pine trees, tward the sky, and a most dense smoke, mingling with the steam issues from r the rivers forming an immense pall over all the hills lowei lowering into the valleys, and then rising and spreading untill it enveloped the whole country in a peculiar gray mist.It seems to me this Glandelinia, is determined to win the war by destroying rather by fighting."

"I fear so." said Mildred."That is why I always say the enemy might win. "

"Yes.!"

"Sure."

"What cause are they fighting for!" asked the Correspondent."

"Don't you know!"

"No.I never heard.Some say the cause is both the same between you both."

In some detail the girls told him all, and the nature of the war and the horrors of child slavery, and the massacres going on.

He reproached Mildred terribly, telling he that she has no faith in the affair at all, and that no cause as good as that can go to ruin, that for the enemy to win would be like Saton winning against Our Lords Church which is utterly and truly impossible beyond all means. Then he said;

"I was at the battle of Cedernine.You girls I suppose didn't see it."

"I did said Gertrude."I know its full issue.The enemy captured Headricks Junction during the battle, but to the Glandelinians that was a veritible death trap.Manleys left wing was annihilated, and his a army all but destroyed and the survivors only escaping by the aid of forest fires.The Mortality among the glandelinians was dreadful, and the scene and noise of that battle terrible beyond dew description."

"You are right." said the Correspondent.Nearly all the companystreets of the captured christian camps near Headrick Junction were covered with the slain of the enemy.When the enemy captured that town they got into a deadly infilade and many had to surrender or be all killed.When possible after that frightful battle the thousands and thousands of bodies were dragged with ropes to the trenches and there hastily covered up, quicklime being used when available. Many of the dead bodies were so covered with dirt and mud that they were not discovered untill walkedupon by the rescue workers.Yet it was a tremendous hchristian victory.And You little girl(to Mildred) say your country will lose the war.Why that is utterly impossible.I'll bet anything that Emeror Vivians army won't be driven from Evangeline St Claire either."

He was right.

"In or after this battle here just past"continued the Correspodndent the smoke vapors which still exhaled over the terrotiry because of fires increased the sickness and mortality among the surviving wounded, and caused suffering among the new arivals.In some cases disinfectants and the usual means of disposing of the many dead were useless, and cremation they say had to be resorted to.
Myletze's however took advantage of the forest fires which caused more con sternation at Chateau Belaire, than resulted from the horrors of battle.Shortly after the appr appearance of a cloud on August the First which seemed to literally belch from the fires, Egyptian darkness enveloped the neighborhood, and while the christian armis were retreating to Lebandon Creek, an alarming luminous clou suddenly ascended manymiles high to the north of the christian armies and drifted sluggishly to the northeast.Thunderous rumblings again from foe batteries lasted for two hours, and then diminished untill they became mere murmurings.The remainder of the night was clear there being a westerly wind, yet the christian generals with their retreating armies still on the move were frenzied with fear dreading a repitition of the catastrophe which caused such terribleloss of life to the army.They almost ran for the shelter of new positions crying and praying for preservation from another calamity.No one in both armies slept that night.Detonations continued that evening, and as the cannonading diminished that evening at eight oclock some thirty generals and other officers went to scout but still were apprehensive."

"It is terrible"said Jane."And our whole country longs for rain.The heat and dryness is unprecedented.Because of this flood horror and the forest fires caused by the enemy there is no hop for the resuscitation of the States for years and years to come.The streams that supplied water to other parts of the country for manypurposes has dried up because of fire heat.The contin uous conflagrations, and the absence of rain caused the region to look like portions of deserts, and smouldering infernoes that do not go out.."

"What the papers say"declared the Correspondent,"a thick smoky cloud over spreads nearly the whole State, so that there is hardly no shineshine at all even as far as Abbicannia, all business in Calverinia is suspended, and everyw every one is still terror stricken.The feeling of suspense throughout the country is painful, awful.People on all cities and towns up north they say keep on spending their time gazing at the eastern and southern skies, where the smoke clouds continue to gather like black thunderclouds, and westward where the mourn ful roaring of the flood is heard.L at last Saturday night the dense clouds forming a canopy over so much territory lowered even over Calverine as if a severe thunderstorm was about to break.This continued for two weeks they say as long as the wind remained southeast, and the temperature rose to ridiculous degrees for that time of year.The smoke fog that came also was so heavy that it disturbed the inhabitants in Calverine, and the forests far to the south appeared to the citizens to give forth dense clouds rising to a uconsiderable height and spreading over the neighborhood, and yet it is said the clouds at the rising point were threeee hundred miles away.This caused apprehension for fear the fire might head for the city.A great glow was seen from or at Calverine for many days, especially greatest between Saur Saturday and Monday.

However some few hours after the battle the conditions in the battle region were quite different when at last calm was restored, or such an approach tobit as could be expcted after the terrible calamities of that battle.However in the battles of Riches farm so complete was the destruction that many soldiers died in a few hous of their wounds.There were very few survivors among the wounded.This is not true after the battle now occuring.And yet there are thoudunds thousands of men women and children left homeless anew and without the means of keeping alive, except as they recieved aid from those in a posit ion to help them.... .Riding up to the city of Kingstown sometime after the battle the sight presented the last few miles of the journey was one of the most heartrending that has ever been seen by man. Graves,g raves, graves on every hand, it seemed as if there were nothing but graves, ruins, and water and con centrating armies as if preparing for another fray.Where the soldiers of both sides had fallen there they were buried. In front of every line of works there were long mounds that told the stories of the deaths of whole regiments of soldiers.

I observed many burial parties of soldiers and it was a ghastly work for many of them.It would have been almost impossible to urge my horse forward had it not been that oats were sometimes hung in bags in front of him.In all the near by villinges wreckd by battle most of the houses were or had been shattered by shell fire.The blackened walls in many instances were the only evidence that once upon the site a handsome manison had stood. And all around were those trenche graves telling their tale of the end of those soldiers who had fought in that desperate battle. All of the trees, many of them o oak trees had been shattered by shell fire.In one of the villinges which I and my courier passed through soldiers were stillat work burying bodies.In front of one house there were sixteen graves in trench formation,and to see ten graves within a radius of a few yards was no unusal sight.Before I left there was no signsthat Myletzes vengeance would or had not been satisfied, that is there was no signs that a new cutbreak of battle would resume."

"I fear there will"said Gertrude.And she was right.

"Hey you head officers over there; you needn 't try to do dodge work now, come on now, and help the men hault haul rocks and sand.Colon l C clonel Harry, for goodness sake, go and show Captian Conway how to have his men dig that trench behind the wall of rocks properly.If he allows his men to go on that way he won't have the work finished in time for next Christmas.I say general Johnston Donnelson, stir up general Pitch Hans won't you.There he is fooling around with a party of girlscouts, when he ought to be hard at work strengthening his position.The enemy might attack at any moment.We got todefend Lebanon Creek and hold it at all costs.They might hurl heavy massesupon us and we got to be prepared."

"Such were the quick and various remarks that came from the mouth of general Beppo Evans(christian side) some two days after the battle just past.The events of former times had b made this christian general extremely popular among l all his officers.All christians are at bottom generous hearted.Selfish ness is not known among Abbioannians, and no children ever had shown mean acts as they do here in our own country.Yet in the general chorus of praise for general Beppo Evans, there was not a single diss n a dissenting voice.

Since the christian retreat after the third battle in Richees Farm the left wing of general Vivianies army had secured a safe refuge near Lebanonen Lebanon Creek, and all plans were being made to frustrate its capture as the Glandelinians it was found out was going to attack in all force and wage a "battle royal."Various details had also been discussed untill finally with the rejection of some and the acceptance of some others it was resolved to carry the matter into effect. With their unusual energy the christian troops were at work, and Beppo Evans had set about to r reconstruct ramprts from natural positions on the slopes of Lebanon Hills a rise of ground a hundred feet above the creek, and therefore from necessity his orders went flying from right to left.He was an active superintendent general, he inspected everything personally, and in doubtful points he consulted the experience of either general Vivianie, or the two Hansonias.

"I say brother" he said to general Vivianie, when matters were well under way,"How long did you holdout against Myletze at Casuplania early this year?"

"About eleven or twelve hours.It was a bad conflict.The enemy stole a march on me that time.Before the action we had about fourty million troops ready. While we were preparing for movements some of the enemy troops moved unexpectedly against us.I couldn't hold in the general fray.By the way we ought to get even with Myletze for that trick.I'm go going to try to think out some scheme. I know we must hold this natural position at all hazards.Yes Beppo at Casuplania theyput us to rout tward evening."

"Pshaw that won't go here.We are not going to allow the enemy to clean us out in that s y style this time.They done enough only a few days ago already."

"Aren't you now?I don't know about that." put in general Vivianie."Some of Myletzes Glandelinian generals are just awful at throwing forward violent assaults.Once general Carmody hurled an onslaught that took my line of battle in the center.The attack came so hard,and so fierce, that I thought at first that my line of troops was driven into the earth, and would come into Chinia. Carmody was killed, but his troops won.I had to concentrate overwhelming numbers to regain the position.And my loss was immeasureable.Those Glandelinians are dangerous in the extreme."

"Yes"chimed in general Hansonia Johnston"And once when I was in a portion of the Battle of Delight's Junction last November on Thanksgiving day, when general Ryan of Myletzes command hit my columns on the left, I such such a rout as could never be restored.I thought from the fury of battle the world itself had become alunatic. We got to keep our eyes open when we engage Myletze." This excellent classical pun--- excellent because so extremely bad---was lost upon Beppo Evans.It was lost upon general Vivian too, who at that moe moment was seemingly absorbed in thought.

"Beppo "he said suddenly"I've an idea.Come over by that schoolhouse on the hill----I think you're just the boy that can carry it out.I'll be the teacher and you'll be the scholar."

There was inspiration in general Vivianias face.The two rode away together, and held a long animated, but whispered consulation, sitting in the school desks as far as their large sizes would allow(childrens desks). Presently they returned where the two Hansonias were still standing, directing the work.

"Now the question is began Beppo"To find out, who are the best generals under Myletze."

"Let's see." said Hansonia John Johnston ."There's general Ryan, Mic-Jeff, Husbane Mic-Whirther, Cannonia, Beppo Johnson Evans, and Mic-Cann.That's all I can remember that is with him now."As Hansonia enumerated each name he checkd it off on apiece of paper with a pencil, and blinked his eyes.

"You left out two of the best." put in general Francis Hansonia."Beppo Evans and Cannonia."

"That's true too." said Beppo Evans , as he walked away.

"Say general"to Vivianie" "What scheme are you and Evans hatching,"asked Hansonia who had percieved that something was on foot."

"We are going to steal a march on Myletze--so as to try to deprive him of a part of his position, as he attacks us."

"Oh come on.What's the big idea.That can't be done."

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Meantime the work on went on with ever increasing rapidity until energy, it being early o in the morning morning of August the 3th, so that no somewhere the sweet notes of the Angelus bell announced the early morning, and the army with bared Heads paused from their work to recite the angelic salutation, they bowed their Heads and breathed their words in the presence of a fortification graceful in its way, and strong as n t a nature and men could make it. Alas many of those who recited the Angelus this morning, were never to recite it again. It had been arranged by Myletze that the storming of the wor s works on Lebanon Creek should begin precisely at One oclock in the morning of August the 4th.. Contrary to the general custom on other days, there was much talking and less eating at breakfast among the officers and troops and even the advent of the favorite pie, and pan cakes aroused but little enthusiasm. They were all excited about how they were to carry general Vivianius position. While all the generals and officers of the christian side continually busied themselves in inspecting and strengthening the fortifications, the artillery commanders saw to the proper placing of all the batteries, and the storing away of munitions and horses. The right of the intrenchments which I gorgot to mention were situated in the angle formed by a stretch of the Sanitary Creek, near Kingstown and a brook, near an old Country Church Building, and the St "aures Catholic Country School, and Infimary.

Precisely at fifteen minutes to seven in the evening, general Beppo Evans Riches, assuming an air of coolness which belied his real feelings, presented himself to another general of his Nero.

"Your Excellency." He said politely raising his cap as the other did so too"Could you please tell i me if any of your scouts know who is the best Glandelinian general under Izner Myletze."

"Best general"repeated, Nero, almost discouragely."He doesn't need one to rout us christian from our position. To win on him alone is a miracle."

"Maybe they think they don't, general Nero, but I hope they'll change their minds before the attack goes far. Well is there isn't any such general, could I please have a talk with some of your staff."

"[illegible]"answered the general, in an encouraging tone, for he percieved that general Evans was strangely worried, and partly embrassed.

"And general Nero." continued Evans,"Could I please have one of your strong batteries of machine guns, so we can strengthen ourpositioj n on Sanitary Creek. It won't take more than two hundred guns." ?

"If the artillery commander can spare them yes."

"Thank you your excellncy. And will you signall to us as soon as signs of the coming assault begins to [illegible]"

"Yes, Yes anything else on your mind?"

"Yes sir, just one thing more. I want to see all of your staff officers!"

"All ?"

"Yes sir." answered Evans Riches modestly."

"You have their names pat, probably you'll find most of them in my tent."

Beppo Evans sought them out at once. They were willing at his proposition to hold a meeting, and good naturedly yeilded, and followed him over to the Catholic School Building.

"I sa "said general Evans, as they at s trudged up t[illegible], how long do you expect us to hold the works."

"If we hold it five minutes we are doing well." volunteered Colonel Erickson Brown, with a look of worry.

"Perhaps we may holdit or hold out against the enemy two hours or so remarked general Modycarne, with a view to encouraging the general.

"Well I'll tell you what "said Evans,"If we stand it out half an hour, do you believe the victory may soon be ours."

"Of course it should be so. Yes sir. I won 't retreat untill I have to." came the general chorus, and as they spoke, Modycarne looked determined, Colonel Cleary Warrens frowned and the others looked their stubborn will to try anything once ."Well

"Well"Said Beppo Evans, as he unlocked the door of one of the rooms"If you'll walk in, we'll settle everything in less than no time. Evans stood Holding the door open, with the key in the lock, waiting for the wily leaders to enter. All entered. Evans too. Suddenly from seemingly no where a stealthy man Hidden in a dark corner sprang forward, grabbed the door knob, and the door banged after him, while coming close upon the slam grated the ominous sound of the key turning in the lock followed by the quick patter of f eet down the stairs. They for a moment were prisoners in the childrens schoolroom. To get out the windows was impossible as they were barred on the lower portions. But Evans was a strong man. He took a teachers chair by the teachers desk and battered the door down with a crashing blow, and they were in persuit of the one who locked them in, but he escaped. They did not know whether it was just a prank or an enemy trying to frustrate their plans.

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One of the officers notified general Vivianis that everything was fixed the way he wanted it. He believed too if the fight lasted even half an hour at the start and they held out he might win . The officers of various sorts seeing suspicious signs among the enemy and beleiving the proposed attack might come ahead of time started off at breakneck speed for the trenches, and such progress did they make that one of them was within a few hundred yards of his intrenchments when there came the signal from Nero that the enemy was moving forward in heavy numbers, and that the Glandelinians were massing their batteries. The sound of the signal, with the sudden rolling roar of Myletzes batteries, coupled with Beppo Evans re-appearance, drew shrill hearty cheers from the christian troops, as all being inposition they almost impatiently awaited the onset. By way of echoes a hoarser deeper sound came from the large columns moving in front it was the well known battle yell of the Glandelinian soldiery confidently moving to victory. Scarcely had the devil yell been fairly heard when the enemy appeared rushing forward in a long wave, movingto the slight rise of ground, and spreadin spreading tward dormitory brook. The glandelinian artillery fire was terrific, evidently covering the charge, but the broadsides were a little too high and struck above the christian posittojs positions bringdown avalanches of dust and stones.

The christian artillery finally opened in replye.

"Boys"said Evans 's officers to their regiments"Don't fire a single shot, till I give the word, or you hear the signal. Be sure not to forget. All you have to do for the present is to keep your eyes open, and dodge every bomb."

Thicker and thicker came the smoke from the batteries, nearer and n earer the Glandelinian wave. The righ left of it, was moving for Beppo Evans, but a certain swing of the other part of the line brought it up against vivianis and it struck like a tidal wave.

"Hi-Hi. Come clear out of that you boo s." shouted general Fanning, who was we ll in front of his troops, as he saw a number of refugee children going into a dangerous spot."Those Glandelinians will sear you."

They obeyed in panic as a deafening hellish crash sounded somewhere along Vivianis line.

"Onward boys" continued the energetic aggressor officers to their men"Let's carry their fortifications."

Inspirited by their officers, the Glandelinians gave a rousing cheer.

"Now give it to them"was the order along the christian line, as he lifted up his sabre. In prompt obedious to this order, all the line in front and rear and in works behind, and in angle and cross works opened a simultaneous fire with musketry and machine guns, the smoke made the air white, and two surges of the glandelinians were torn to fragments, and reeled back, in confusion, but the rest pressed on.

"Woop-la. Now is our time."cried Evans, as the main line of Glandelinians came within better range. Every one fire again."

As a storming destructive fire from all make of war machines tore into the ranks of the Glandelinians, their expressions of enthusiasms, so multitud ious before shaded off into blended expressions of astonishment, and discomfiture and embrassment. They however tried topress on, but the upper batteries tore avenues in their waves, and shattered the whole line, and presently however astonishment pure and simple stamped itself on the faces of the survivors, for before they had fairly begun to reach the works in the face of the well directed fire of the troops, the shrill cry of charge"came from the positions upon their startled ears, and presto, there issued at a run three waves of the Abbioannians and Angelinians. To meet them and their terrible bayonets was impossible in this open space. Amid shouts and taunts of the Nationals, the crash of cymbal the beat of drum, the blare of bugles and the awful noise of countless thousands of muskets andpistols, and the drum drum roar of artillery slipurloined through the battle line--the foremost glandelinian troops turned and fled, some threw down their arms and surrendered, and others hurled them selves flat to escape annihilation. Not the whole line however. In the confusion of onset, general Talmadge and a few of his divisions resorted to manoeuvre. Quietly opening their ranks they allowed persued and persuers to pass, then suddenly advanced upon the fortifications. But though the troops had left it, new force had immediately entered, and they let go a withering fire that tore down the Glandelinian regiments by the score. On pressed the enemy, and the defenders fought bravely. General Ryan, and Colonel Keenan were wounded but their men still held the position. Still the issue could hardly be looked upon as doubt ful. slowly butinevitably the hope of the Glandelinian columns advanced. The voices of the Glandelinian leaders were becoming hoarse with joy. They hoped that in a few minutes the works of the christians would be theirs. The fighting was fierce and bloody, and stubborn, but the Glandelinians reckoned without their host. They were still urging their men on forgetful of the for forces in his wake, when general Hannonins voice rose above the din.

"Hold the fortifications!"We are coming."bawled the general.

He came up in time and hurled his forces upon the enemy. The enemy assailatn assailants were nowoutnumbered I must say three to one, and driven from the slopes tward Sanitary Creek, and the other line was hurled across Lebanon Streamoblivious in the meantime of the galling fire of the main body of the enemy, who advanced from another quarter. From that moment the fighting on the part of the enemy was tame. Deprived of sever l several generals and

suffering a dreadful loss, they displayed a masterly inactivity. Whenever the christians pressed on they had a capitol opportin p opportunity of capturing many prisoners and finally driving the enemy back to his positions.

In the meantime general Nero and some of his head generals stoood looking on. Among them was general Turner. He had a quick eye, and it struck him presently that a number of the large christian divisions on his own right were or seemed to be absent. Where could they be? Was there a disaster? Or did the enemy along that point worst the christian line, while Beppo Evans was driving the enemy back along his own front. And why did the noise of battle now sound so frightfully fierce along Vivianins lines. His suspicions w suspicions were aroused. Perhaps those divisions had been driven in by the foe or having taken advantage somhow h had taken upon a position in a new place where they had not been ordered to go by mistake. But he was worried. Though he saw Beppo Evans win, and Hannonia with his troops crush the assailants, and was still driving them, the sound of battle was so wild in the vicinity of Vivianispsition that he was apprehensive. Perhaps ----dreadful thought--the enemy might com back to resume the assault upon the christian troops now moving forward and catch them unawares and do a lot of harm.

General Nero was familiar with the ways of general Mylatzes, or his dangerous generals and he remembered some sad experience of what had happened in other battles. He gave a sigh, took out his note book, and ran over the list of the officers in charge of these Corps. His face grew longer as he read and compared. Yes all the leaders, and the troops whom general Beppo Evans had asked for to reinforce him in case of necessity were not at the front. They seemed to be missing.

He feared a disaster somewhere.

"This is too bad "he muttered to himself. "They are the last officers I would suspect of being hoodwinked to the enemy. Why in the world is general Vivianis in such dreadful action. I hope we won't have a disaster that'll disgrace our army. We have none but good generals, and it would be a pity to have to have all our troops expelled from these positions. It's a pity I don't know Mylatze better. Perhaps he's up to some tricks and knows our plans. Now where is that new sound of battle coming from. Listen to Vivianins battle line. It sounds as if it has gone crazy. But perhaps the enemy are attacking him terribly. I'll sure make a effort to see what is wrong first."

Just then, Beppo Evans on a grand triumphant charge, came sweeping past him. Regardless of the flying missiles, general Nero rode forward fast and caught up with him just as a crashing explosion tore up the fields before him.

"General Evans" he cried "raising his voice above the din, "Do you know anything about the Thirteenth, Sixteenth, and the Sixty First Corps that were supposed to support you. Where are they?"

Nero's face as he spoke was clouded. Beppo Evans judged the expression to be one of vexation, and inferred, that he was worried about something.

He replied demurely;

"No, something happened somewhere but I cannot tell. Tell general Francis Hannonia he'd better support Vivianis before it is too late. He is attacked by general Nuebaum Mic-Whirther and Cannonia."

This answer confirmed, general Nero's worst suspicions.

"There's no doubt about it." hemuttered, as he made his way out of the thick of the fight. "Some portion of the Glandelinian force had stolen a march on us. But I do hope we'll discover it before a disaster occurs. A great scream rose from the throats of all of general Beppo Evans troops, as in the full flush of victory they charged the enemy and drove him back as far as his own positions. It was a disgraceful rout, and at that time general Nac on the foe side fell mortally wounded, and two other officers were killed, and a whole line of Glandelinians dropped before the christian fire. General Tanner Shannor a on the christian side rode past Beppo Evans to deliver a message, and under cover of the cries of victory beyond and without, and the growling of the defeated enemy warned him not to charge too far as its dangerous to go into the enemys territory. He then started away, and as he did so a shot killed his horse, and the general was thrown injuring his leg. He was holed away to the rear, and Beppo Evans seeing the receding fire of the enemy becoming worse ordered his victorious forces to halt along the banks of Lebanon crook and form into position. On the enemy side Carmody and Ryan were killed, general Ziegler Zoe Nac was wounded, Cleary Whilling was disabled, while general Miller pacingup and down was shot dead while trying to rally his troops. Though defeated the Glandelinians were acting like enraged tigers.

Though Beppo Evans was victorious, the enemy would not desist in his attack upon Vivianis, and Beppo Evans then recieved another notice from a courier that Vivianis was being worsted.

"Confound it." burst forth general" Mic-Neff. "I never was so badly taken in since I came here. If we are attacked again here sir, and we are not able to retain the position, Vivianis will have to retreat again. Listen. How the firing is. It is dreadful."

"We haven't been here so long yet." was general Mandons consol atory reflection. The enemy may be afraid to resume the attack here."

"It'll be a pretty how de do if we do get it." growled general Cranis.

"If we are licked everybody will have the laugh on us."

"We have strong enough forces here yet to paralyse the next assault the enemy would make" said general Mic-Coy Johns.

Just imagine what the result would be if we were to lose this battle." muttered general Cranier.

The task of inscribing the results seemed to be attended with some great difficulties for in indeh induced a silence that lasted for several min minutes.

"Isn't some one going to tell us what we are to do." cried general Arthur Jadas at length. "The fights been raging now for nearly over an hour. Hasn't any one got a courier?"

There was a sullen silence silence.

"Well come on" cried general Arthur. "Let's go a little ways with our inactive troops, and see what is up."

"For goodness sake "cried Colonel general Ryania. "Don't. "We have no orders to do anything. We can sent a courier to general Hannonia and ask for orders."

"Well" said another "I don't propose to stay standing idle here forever. I wonder if I couldn't climb that tree and see what is happening along general Vivianins lines."

"You might try." said general Carmon encouragingly. "It would be just like Myl t Mylatze to be driving the main assault upon Vivianis. If general Vivianna could be warned all will be well."

While Carmon was speaking, general Kramer had taken off his coast and vest.

"Now boys give me a lift." he said.

Eager hands came to his help, and as he got half way up a shot struck the tree, and as the tree fell otherwise he came down on hands and knees.

"Those darn Glandelinians are a lot of fun actors. "He volunteered, as he arose "They must think I'm insured for a fortune, and had two or three necks to b rank. There is nothing to be seen. There's too much smoke."

"Try and signal general Vivianana." suggested general Mic-Cann....

"All right. I'll try to. But get away from a tree in case I climb it and it get's hit again."

The monkey started to climb it, but again it was the same thing, and the falling tree almost caught the group of officers this time, and this even them an idea the enemy gunners were watching and were trying to p frustrate them.

While the fallen officers were ruefully picking themselves up, some Glandelinians at a far distance broke into a ringing laugh.

"Shut up you skunks" roared general Mic-Cann, when he could command his breath. "You are a lot of fools. You may have known we were doing something."

"That's a fact" assented general Carmon. "It's funny it didn't occur to us. The Glandelinians are pretty sharp fellows you know."

"Aw tell us something new" snarled Ryania.

Slowly and sadly the column of officers rode down the slope each one behind the other a feat of which they hardly could succeed at times because of the step descent. On emerging into the field they breathed more freely when they espieved at a distance that Evans was successful, and they noticed Nero still anxiously scanning the region.

"Officers" said the general, whose suspicions war was confirmed by their apprehensive looks-

"Vivianis is caught, and there's no getting out of it. We is attacked by the main body of the enemy."

"Well that seems to be so, generals" said Carmon, trying to be easy and failing. "We might as well ack c acknowledge it. We've been hoodwink hoodwinked."

"Se you don't offer any excuses!" exclaimed general Nero in astonishments

"Oh well why should we." said general Ryania, who se own suspicions had grown in intensity. "Vivianis is already licked. I heard the reports."

"You don't say." "Inquired general Nero. "Well I'm going to hold if they attack here or die."

"Why I have the situation is not so serious, general." said Cleary Hanson in a conciliatory voice. "And I hope" he continued you won't be that rash if the enemy does storm your works."

General Nero remembered Bunnos embarassment.

"What" he exclaimed, "do you mean to say that he carried the enemys position down below.!"

"Why he was at the bottom of the whole affair." broke in Carmon in a astonishment at the generals obtuseness. "And let me tell you, he is not to easy to beat either, he's up to more tricks than any other general. I wish he could leave that position and aid Vivianis.."

"Really" said Nero in a troubled voice "The case is far worst worse than I thought. Boys i I didn't expectbthe enemy could do it. I hope vivianin can hold. I heard the conflict yet."

"My troops are not asked to go in." said general Carmon.

" rankly then" said Nero, "I am very sorry on your account."

"Oh don't bother about us sir." put in general Cleary "We can stand our ground if the enemy attack."

"Can stand your ground" echoed Nero in dismay "Do you mean to say that such matters are really worse than we think."

"Why certainly" said general Ryania, no less puzzled than Nero. "And in fact I guess we'll have to fight as we never fought before."

"There, we can and must do something." said Nero."

"We can make the enemy repent of this to morrow." said Ryania.

The others exchanged glances of perplexity. For the first time they began to reflect that the battle was raging at "Cross Purposes".

"Come now" continued general Nero. "Tell the exact truth. How long you scouting."!

"Over an houts" said Carmon."

"Over an hour." said Carmon.
"And what did any of you see?"
The officers looked at each other."
"Do you mean the results of the fighting."sir ventured General Gran."We observed Beppo Evans success, but we could see nothing elsewhere because there was so mu h much smoke.There wasn't anything else to see, but we did not like the sound coming from where general Vivienia was, and we wondered why Viviannanna doesn't c me to his aid."

General Nero flushed with anger.

What they said made matters worse.They had acknowledged that the general that is Vivienia was fairly caught. The general told of the Corps he was missing before they were gon a five minutes--and that he knew something was wrong as they showed some signs of worry too-- and that they had acknowledged they saw bad things for over an hour that they were at indiscretion of over it, that there was a clear case of Vivienia facing dire disaster. And he finished by saying;

"So now it's up to you to move to viviehias aid, call for Vivionanna and bring on Francis Hansonia.

"We will." they said.

"Someone must have made a big blunder"said Nero.They don't know the lay of the position you see.But sincerely I'm glad you happened along."

There was a whispered consultation among the officersn then Ryania spoke,

"Your Excellency, we want you to do us a favor.You and general Evans are the only ones that know what is going on--- we'll do as you say, and we'll make the enemy become "quiet"if you promise to lend y us the aid of your batteries."

"You can do so, and trust me." answered Nero."You can have some of my troops too if you need them."

"Thank you sir"came the general response.

About two hours after this, the Glandelinians who had been rallied, wer after being routed by Beppo Evans were reinforced, and they renewed the attack and concentrated most heavily upon Beppo Evans, driving a sledge hammer like assault upon all his line.Hansonia had to throw all his troops into the action topreserve the main division of Beppo Evans army, and the battle along his lines now was fiercer than even along general Vivianias. The enemy rushed irrestibly against Beppo Evans, crushing his lines, and hurling him back, but they could not penetrate Hansonias, though they delivered one onslaught after another in endless succession.However Hansonia was so heavily assaulted that he had to call for help.Viv a Vivianna sent a large division, and so did Nero and after four hours of terrific battle raging like a thousand Gettysburgs in that space and time the glandelinians finally failed to make any further progress, and aided by artillery, Beppo Evans by a headlong charge was able to recover his lost ground. The losses on both sides was frightful by this time and many officers were down.

Francis Hansonia was also severely handled by the enemy under Bolddier Snydeinia who held the works near St Maures Schoo Schoolhouse and grounds. The battle also raged violently here, and for a longer period the enemy hurling forth five tremendous onslaughts with overpowering numbers and so covered by a heavy artillery fire, but Hensonia was not to be dislodged and he cut to pieces every charge that was made against him. General Vivienia for the first action of the battle was rought roughly delth with, and driven from hispositions, but the generals in consultation with Nero just mentioned did as Nero suggested, and also with the help of troops from both Nero and Vivianenna and their batteries, almost infilading the attacking Gl n Glandelinians finally held them in check untill vivian vivianie could be rallied.General Mic-noff, and also Cleary, and Carmon were wounded but they retained their command and restored Vivianias broken lines.

General Mic-Coy was disabled in the foot, and was brought to the rear. Seeing that it was necessary, generl general Viviananna brought up all his available troops and concentrated heavily upon the enemy at all points, sending heavy reinforcements to Beppo Evans as well, and bringing up all the artillery zand the enemys waves were so honeycombed with gaps and avenues, that the survivors finally were glad to withdraw from the frightful contens contest and fled from the bloody field and hill to their own works.

Vivianenna suggested an counter charge to Vivienia but he would not take the chance and was content with victory as it was.It had been a bad fight however, and hundreds of thousands of his own dead lay on that bloody field, all in that five hours conflict.The enemys loss was more terrible but not yet known, though the wounded was estimated at three millions.

It was a long time before Gertrude knew anything of the real outcome of this battle.The total christian loss was three million.The enemy was nearly seven.

Nevertheless in the events I have recently narrati ra narrated as happen ing time and agains since Angeline Riches began to come back from her work and Jennie turners first meeting with little Jean, I have purposely avoided onlari enlarging upon the grief and horror of many dreadful incidents that had occured with them which was not written as it would take toolong.Jennie Turner was gone, on her way alone, having secured a baloon and would write to Gertrude and the others as soon as she reached Emperor vivians lines. Many cried at the partings

Evidently the reader would think, judging what heax has been related of Gertrude Angeline, and her best followers since the story began,, that she had been strangely unimpressed by the many awful and tragic incidents of the war, and especially the great flood disasters.This however is a wrong inference.True gertrude being also a guiding scout like Angeline Riches, by being sent from one army to another, though rightly belonging to Concentinian Aronburgs army, and being a lone independent scout, had been wisely spared the sad sights, and all horrors incident upon the greater disasters, though probably she did almost partake in the "Abbiesnn Ocean." s as the disaster is nicknamed. After being sent to aid Angeline Riches guide the girlscouts and others back to Empror Vivian, as Jennie Turner now left, she felt lonely indeed, and too she never saw the faces of those who had li lost their lives.N or did she ever see the faes of many of her best friends who had been killed at duty, and those who had asked her pr yers prayers. Had she seen them, she would have recognized the same beautiful expressions which had thrown a Halo upon the faces, when the dying brave little heroes and heroines had uttered"sweet Heart of Jesus, be my Love.

To those who knew Gertrude well, they knew her ways and feelings, but those who did not know, her thought her unconcerned, as she seemed refined, shed no tear, always smiled or scolded which ever it was, showed her severe dignity and went about her ways as if nothing extraordinary had happened. She even acted and went about her work as if no war had happened, and if the disasterous flood close by, was merely a sea, and the fires had been sent in the forsts by her own Hand just to see a "big fire."

Nevertheless the incidents had deeply affected Gertrude.She knew that her own frequent and countless numbers of escape from instant and frightful deaths, or maiming for life had fallen little short of a mirac,e miracle, and every time she thought of prayrin praying she from her innermost heart thanked God that she had been spared to serve her country wellllll well. Then even one known as Jane had been taken away just as she had done her utmost,, and that two or three good boys had been called to God on the very days they had completed their First Friday seemd to Gertrude yo n be a wonderous manifestation of Gods mercy.It was a lesson too oto Jane Welfort who had always been so reck less.She too knew now the enemy have t no more mercy on children tha than she would for a baab bedbug.

Her losses, the disasters she knew of, and all what she had had the chance to se, filled Gertrudes little heart with a burning desire to serve her beloved Country all the more, just as she always Recieved Our Lord in the sacrament of His Love.Among all boy and girlscouts--as I have heard of them, and known them-- such feelin s and affections for Country show s themselves outwardly in a somewhat negative manner.They do not always m nifest themselves in deed and conversation, save by increased carefulness in avoiding anything sinful.Joke and jest, play ,work andmilitary study may go on as before.But the change for all that, may beradical and life long.It was a happy day that 5th of Aug st for Gertrude, when as she was organizing her troop she recieved word Vivienia had repulsed Myletze at Lebanon Creek.I dare say no girl or boyscout set about the work of preparation as Gertrude did.Each day she attended of her own accod her military lessons and prepared them with a thoroughness that was beyond critiz criticism.Nor in the meantime did she neglect her other studies,and it seemed as if she was merely a scholar and not a superior girlscout.

There was one catch in her however. She didn't like James Green, the boy foriegner.He never applied himself very hard in order to put himself on a fair footing with his classmates.He stood always at the foot of his class; and once when waving one of his signal flags for pra practice he somehow wrapped the banner around Gertrudes face, and she and he had some time to disengage it. Gertrudes face was red with anger but she die not say anything. He even broke one paddle given to him.

"I hope Miss Aronburg, won't get mad about it." he remarked to Jack Sanders." and as he spoke he looked quite serious."

"If you try to correct your ways, she might be all right."said Jack."You've been acting mighty foolish lately, and as your're a foriegnor James you know you haven't much pull here."

"Yes, and Miss Aronburg is mighty struct.She thinks or knows I'm awful careless.She doesn't even know what to make of me.I'm afraid I'll be discharged. And there is no one to teach me how to be careful or watch my mistakes.I don't fear Gertrude so much, but its Angeline Jennings and her her sister.They are the onews who dod do the discgaring, and they are more severe."

"I'll assist you to do better if you'll listen to my adc advice."

Said Jack."You are right."And Dolores is always watching you.She sure gave you awfully black looks yesterday, when you failed to catch your flag signal lessons ten times after all she explained to you. If you want me to do this for you you must listen to my advice."

In these few words, Jack had set down the relations between Dolores and her sister very much.Dolores and Jennings loved all boyscouts, but wanted them to to be as she wished them to be.And the wall of misunderstanding had been rising between the two girlscout supriors and James ever since James was in the camp. And it was all his fault.Stepping on girls toes, bumping into them by not looking where he was going, getting him self lost from Gertrude at the risk of his life, and other foolish acts.Even Emperor vivian would not permit that, and as for Violet, and her sisters, well----"He'd better look out.

James forbodings on this occassion were not without foundation.That evening of the fifth he was summoned to Angeline Jennings by Gertrude, and she gave him to understand, that he's packing up within a week if he does not change." And she showed him the prepared discharge papers. Th

"That willbe given to you a week from to day if I do not hear better k news of you ."sahe said simply.

Later Angeline Jennings was sum o summoned to Gertrudes headquarters.On entering with her usual sweet smile, she saw at once from Gertrudes face, that something had gone wrong."

"Are Ah Miss Richee, how are you faring."!

"Pretty hard Gertrude."

"P. And how are you getting on with your classes of girl and boyscouts."

"Very good."

"We can do lots can't we."

"Yes, and I guess we can proceed to morrow."

"Are you sure we have had no trouble lately."

"Yes, Gertrude, I'm gr getting ready to start the whole column if you say so."

"Well Angelina, I've very bad news for you."

"Any more sick in our camp, Gertrude?"

"No it regards you, and your plans.I am very much displeased at our situat ion.We can't go anywhere for the present."

"Oh I got low notes because we can't go through the files, and because I've missed a lot of days.Penrod says I've got up already.We surely can go ahead."

"Angeline Jennings knows the situation too, but there must have been some thing more in your bulletin---some remark which indicated that you were not, could not give satisfaction in your guiding ship because of the files, for Angeline Jennings says, that you, or I, nor any one, can get through this region unless we turn ourselves into beings of fire, and then no.Angeline to progress forward now would be a miracle.We are stuck here, and heaven only knows how long.The fire and flood has outwitted us."

A strange expression, came over Angelines face.Every nerve seemd to be a quiver.Till that moment, Angeline, or nor Gertrude had had any idea of the ardent desire with which they had looked forward to their "days " o f days to reach Emperor Vivians army.

"But that ain't all." said Gertrude."The Vivian Girls have disappeared."

Angeline started.

"Don't take it too much to heart Angeline,"continued Gertrude, both touched and edified at the way in which Angeline recieved the News."I have a hope that a further examination or investigation will discover some mistake.It seems they wentout scouting on the First of this month and never returned.But we mustn't give up hope yet.I'll inquire about the whole affair, and find out just how things stand as soon as possible.Jennie Turner will infor me when she reaches the army.She'll be there by midnight."

"Thank you Gertrude.""said Angeline Richee.

"In the meantime offer all this trial to God , my friend.It comes from Him.His ways are not our ways.And when He sends us trials,He wishes to bear j up under them cheerfully."

"I'll try to swallow it Gertrude.But its heard."

Angeline Richee went directly to a little chapel in the home, prostrated herself before the alter, and there prayed fervently.When she entered she was dazed, bewildered, and saddened, when she left, three minutes later she was comparitively calm.There's no sorrow that prayer cannot soothe, and childrens sorrows, God t Be thanked for it, are quickest to yeild their bitterness to fervent r prayer. No one observing Angeline Richee, doing her duties half an hour later could imagine that the n nimble girlscout, all gayety and motion had just met the first great sorrow of her life.The disappearance of the Vivian Girls her best friend was some awful shock to her.The wounding of her fi father too had been a shock.Gertrude knew how to get a wireless telephone connection to the christian camp under emperor vivian,and she decided right away to get definite news Gertrude called;

"Give me Emperor vivians camp l please.----

An hour elasped,and Angeline was again summoned by Gertrude.

"Well Angeline, things are looking a little brighter.I've got into communication with the camp, and its hoped there's been a grave blunder about the report.It is believed they might have stayed three days longer than expected and may come back to day.Now we hope the report came from some error but we'll recieve the final report to night.I have just learned thank Heaven Jennie's there and she answered me when I called.She'll tell me to night how matters stand, and I'm quite sure that all will then be right."

Angeline Richee smiled excessively, and finding som difficulty in keep ing both feet upon the ground, hastened to leave the tent, whereupon she almost danced all the way back to her own tent. About eight or nine o clock that night Angeline again recieved the sum ons, and before this since she recieved the second report h she had been in high glee.How eagerly she hastened to Gertr Gertrudes headquarters to hear the final word.She entered all aglow and smiling, but the glow gave way to ashen whiteness and smile disappeared instantly. There was something in Gertrudes face which warned her that the bad news was about true.

"I've been shocked out of my boots , by the tenor of Jennie's telegram.She says that couriers and agents reports the Vivian Girls have been made prisoners by Glandelin ians and sold into slavery by the enemy, and that all the Gemini and Jack Evans have gone to try and locate them and rescue them.She says she's glad to in know towhom one of them has been sold and taken,and that the couriers have donw done well in bringing the news in time, but she adds that she has been doubting for sometime whether they can be recovered soon or not.If they are not Emperor Vivian will refuse to take prisoners, that is Manley and his various armies will not recieve quarter."

"They always g ve les of trouble to the glandelinians." explained Angeline humbly."I guess they are done for."

"Well Emperor Vivian is prepared for anything. If they are not returned within two weeks Manley will be notified of the degree or decree of "No Quarter."Emperor Vivian suspects that their disappearance and being sold is a sign that Manley is up to some devilment."

"Yes" assented Angeline sadly. They'be be better off if they would have stayed home where they are safer.It looks as if we all have to go around with long faces."

"However." added Gertru Gertrude, supressing a tear"We leaves the matter in thy hands."

Angeline Brightened at once.

"Judging from the drift in Jennie turners letter, though, I think that he would prefer for us to wait and not do anything rash ourselves. I' I'm to send Penrod to go in quest of them, with ten of his scouts if they are not back th n when we get there."

Angelines face fell.

"Now Angeline, we all have our choice.If you insist, I shall allow you to take the chances of leading on us through if you think we can go, or of remaining here...."

Angeline thought for a moment, then suddenly a light flashed from her eyes-- a light of inspiration.

A"Angeline or Gertrude I'll tell you what I'll do.We must remain here till every path way is open for us.It's suicide to proceed."

She did not explain her reasons, but for Gertrude no explanations was needed.

"God will bless you for that safe resolution, Angeline.Our success when it comes will be all the happier, and we can offer our Holy Communion in Thanksgiving. You have chosen wisely, and God's blessing will be upon the choice...""

Angeline departed sad.She did not wish her friends to be gone.At times an intense longing would comeupon her.She wished she were in their place so she would could find a way to save them.On the early morning when all the regiment of child scouts kenlt to recieve ther their Divine Master, Angelines eyes became very moist.One tear trickled down her pretty face. After this there was no relaxation in her stutidos, meantime.. But poor girlscouts.Between their time to get at Emperor vivians, and their adventures other tragic experiences were to intervene.Upon these brave heroines and heroes God for the good of Abbiannias holy cause seemed to have special designs. Their mettle were to be tested,and espdially James Green's.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN.

1789

AN UNUSUAL AND MOST DESTRUCTIVE ARTILLERY DUEL FOLLOW THE BATTLE OF 1 LEBANON CREEK. THE WHOLE COUNTRY FEELS THE SHOCK, AND GENERAL VIVIANIAS ARMY SUSTAINS GREAT LOSS OF LIFE AND DESTRUCTION OF MILITARY PROPERTY.

IN WHICH GERTRUDE HEARS A STRANGE STORY.

TERRIFIC artillery duels which proceeded the battle of Lebanon Creek the night following, were no doubt relater to the latter convuls convulsions of the two armies.Myle tze was determined to oust Viviania from his position, though he was a failure in his assaults upon it.In the battle his divisions under general Commonia suffered the heaveist loss of life and numbers of wounded.His artillery under Leo Costallio also sustained heavy damages.And he was determined to get even..On that night a blinding flash like lightinz lightning followed by a storm of artillery firing along the whole of Mylatzes line, and torrents of shell fragments, all in the space of a few minutes at the start, caused the christian infantry troops to rush for shelter.In an instant however the shell fire was upon them .Rushing frantically into the darkness, and through the awe shell swept hillsides and ravines, anywhere away from the earthrending xrashes, ran the multitudes of soldiers.The following shocks were less severe as the christian artillery responded with a roar heard as far as where Gertrude and her scouts were, and during the meantime the infantry were rallied behind strong natural positions.

During the time the artillery storm was raging so wildly news soon began to come in of frombthe hill country, where general Francis Hansonias army was situated. A terrific onslaught was hurled against it with crazy fury.His left wing attacked by overwhelming numbers suffered the most.Hundreds of regiments were either totally destroyed, or seriously cut up and thrown into confusion. The narrow works however often not more than three or four yards wide, and the irregular manner in which they were constructed nobly served to make death traps of the christian positions for the assailants, and before the assault was finally repulsed fully two thousand thousand bodies in gray uniforms mingled with purple had been discovered by morning, and many soldiers of both sides were badly wounded.Fires as well as flood, and terrific explosions added to the horror of the nights battle with the result that many refugees went insane and others crazed committed suicide.

Generals Amatitlan, San Juan, San Marcos, Escuintla, Santa Grancia, and others of the christian side were also attacked, and hard pressed but held. Approximately five million Glandelinians were in the assault covered by the terrific artillery fire, but Hansonia held desperately. A river steamer known as the Cradle whdh left Lebanon Creek that time of midnight brought additional additional news of the Lebanon horror to Evangeline St Claire. General Quesalt Tenango's division holding ground and aiding San Jose lost about five thousand men out of a troop of IO?000.Death and damage to artillerty, and artillerymen and horses were also reported to be heavy, and the divisions of generals San Marcus, San Pedro, San Juan Ostancalio, Tucania, Maz atenico, and others were believed to have been driven back by the intensity of the enemys severe artillery fire.These divisions had from 30,000 to 50,000 soldiers each. Much damage was done on many plantations on these hillsides.The ship Cradle was near by when Mylatze let go so fiercely with all his artillery.Though the ship was anchored in the harbor of the town of Kahibble thirty miles away, those on board felt the shock or concussion of the distant cannonading.The crew either thought a volcano was erupting or another big explosion was occuring.The Nineteenth Corps under general Coo's mat the shok of a Glandelinian assault. A number of his works were carried, and the line thrown back, but he held the other positions successfully.

The Glandelinian columns"rolled" up against his lines in three distinct waves..Each wave was torn to pieces and repulsed.The Glandelinian wave of charge was seared.The town of Kingstown was shell and there was not a house left standing.The stream banks were torn up.further details of the artillery storm reached the village of Pandora by another ship unknown of name, which was in the o locality at the time.The men on board stated that the city of Kingstown was almost completely destroyed.The shock was felt for a whole night on board the ship.The loss of life was between one million,and one million five hundred thousand on both sides.General Escuinta of the christian side had about IOO?000 a men before the battle, and terrific explosions cut ravines in the fields and shook many houses to wreck.

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After the terrible struggle the scenes between the battle lines were terrible. The bodies of the fallen were even dug from the ruins of house on the hillsides and picked up from trenches and in the open fields.Carts, were heaped with dead, which were buried in the trenches.

Of general SanJosse's divisions, IOO Regiments were destroyed by the Glandelinian charge, but only two quarters of that number were killed, the rest wounded or captu e captured.The railway passing through there was much damaged, and org progress was stopped, for embankments had been badly torn up,and rails spread spread in many places.

The number of homeless in the region as a result of the battle and destruction caused by the battle was believed to be at I30,000.General Mealco was wounded and his losses heavy.By advices brought by a courier from general Para Bruinia it was learned that in ninty seconds, II,000 Glandelinians had been killed over fourty thousand hurt, maimed and crippled by a terrific sudden christian discharge of musketry and cannon, and also general Quesaltenango of commander of a force of fourty million Angelinians killed, and his positions for a time captured by the enemy. Only fragmently fragmentary reports and accounts of the disaster had been recievedto that time recieved up to that time owing to the interrupted telegraphic communication. But there arived from general Paras lines a courier who was in the battle at the time of this war disturbance. In speaking of the second action of the battle;he said itl;

"The artillery duel came about eight o'clock in the evening after the repulse of the enemys frightful charges at five o'clock.I was out on open ground and so fierce was the concussion of artillery firing that I had the greatest difficulty to keep my feet.

The very action of the ground produced by the shocks resembled nothing so much as standing in a small boat that is being rocked by the ways waves.I saw the ground rise and fallvin great clouds from dreadful explosions, like eruptions, and everywhere it seemed to me the earth was s l splitting and and cracking from the blasts.I witnessed the Glandelin ian assault upon the christian front under general Quezaltenango, and his division was practically destroyed.All the regiments that were left are shakin shaky from the violence of the fray.The loss is irreparable.My brother who is an officer had a Brigade in the engagement and it is now a total ruin. M any other officers all brigadier commanders suffered in a similar manner,and in addition suffered a greater loss that of some members of their staff.There were three distinct Glandelinia assaults,each more severe than the one preceding, but the damage was all done within a minute and a half by the glandelinian artillery fire.Those who were forced to retreat from their shell swpt works, escaped with slight in jury but many of those who were with the columns resisting the glandelinian attack were either killed or wounded.The loss of life waw was greatest along general Viviania center.It is practically impossible however to give anythinglike an accurate estimate of the dead.During the midnight hours the driven christian troops encamped out on a big l plain near Lebanon Creek.To add to the horror of the situation towns and small villages are all afire.Many of the wounded suffered greatly from heat and thirst, owing to the fact they were too far from water and the enemy cut off the sul supply from the Sanitary and Lebanon Creeks.

The battlefield is a ghastly sight.Bodies are lying everywhere about the trenches and beyond, here would be a head, there a trunk, and limbs covered by explosions, everywhere fro piles of debris in the near by towns can be seen protruding arms and l g legs.The sight is horrible and one that cannot be forgotten."

All the additional later details of the battle of Lebanon Creek only added to its horrors.Refugees arriving at Pandora City on a river steamer, and taking chances with the flood for safty understood that one million fourteen thousand fourteen thousand d ad were buried after the terrific conflict.One refugee who was there and who was fored to aid in burying the bodies said that over I,000,000 had been buried in trenches twelve hous after the first action of the battle.General Tapanuhcula had a force of about IO?000 Io,000,000 men and his loss was estimated at two hundred thousand dead, he being the enemy.S General San Marcos division was destroyed.General Lachica lost three quarters of his numbers .

It must be said in justice to Gertrude Angeline and her followers that the record of all so far was very pleasing. Indeed Gertrude herself expressed her pleasures in such terms, that many of the scouts especially the boys blushed to the tips of his ears.

"Say Gertrude"said Angeline that on morning of the fifth,"What about trying the trip on the raft?"

...ions were not without foundation.That evening

"You and we can make it Angeline, just as soon as it is safer to continue our traveling.Perhaps everything in nature is a little severe on us, but it might do us a lot of good in the end."

There could be no doubt about the improvement of all of Gertrudes followers though truth compels me to add that they all made things very lively whenever they could. The morning breakfast passed quickly.Toward the end of the breakfast hour Gertrude came upon one of the boys.She was sauntering about the yard of St Gertrudes Orphanage when her attention was caught by the following conversation.

"He's over suspicious."

"He wants to speak always to us about disaster."

"Give him calamity Jane.She'll be his sister."

These were a few of the remarks from John Hitch,and a few other of the boy and girlscouts addressed toone of the boyscouts around whom they had gathered. "What's the matter?" Gertrude inquired of the victim.

"He's afraid we'll be staying here for a year, but you'll do Gertrude." volunteered Dolores. He's a second Mildred Maxwell...."

"Come on Johnny what's your name." said Gertrude?"

This boy known and Frank Janters though long in the Regiments always said very little, but his eyes always spoke volumes of gratitude.He was a quiet ivory complexioned boy.His eyes dark and heavily shaded had a trick of passing from one suspicion to anger at times and to knowledge of things others knew nothing of.Gertrude since she had first seen him had taken a liking to the boy boy and had come to always notice his chance of face, and as the days had slipped by and their intimacy grew Gertrude wondered,she too was puzzled ,and being an outspoken girlscout was only waiting a favorable opportunity of satisfying her curiousity. This day the occassion presented itself.

"What makes you look so nervious Frank.?"

"Do I look nervious....?"

"just as if you had been training a flock of ghosts, and had not make any good success...."

Frank shivered, and his face paled.

"Wallos, now I say. "cried Gertrude, clapping him heartily on the back, "Come and tell me, what is the matter,anyhow?"

"Oh Miss Aronburg"and Franks long pent up cmpve emotions escaped in a flood of tears.""I'm afraid we'll all be massacred here..."

"What gasped Gertrude?

"Just listen.You know about two miles from here I was scouting near a large farm.I was hiddden hidden away but I saw a large force of Glandelinian cavarly. somewhere came an awful noise as if a big battle was being fought.The leader of the squadron was colonel Hartnett Apple.He was a short, dark ugly looking man with bristling black whiskers.The horse he rode was coal black,and he carried a Gargyllian "Wheeler" standard.He was alone in advance of his men and I knew he was up to something. A little later I passed the farm house, when I heard a noise inside, as if some little girl and boy were trying to shout or scream, but couldn't, then I heard a tremendous hubbub, as if a there was a scuffle, then the crack of a pistol, then all was still again.In spite spite of my fright, I crept to the window, and oh Miss Gertrude how I was frightened. On the floor lay a man and woman in pools of blood, and over them stood that dark man, looking still darker, while two others were strangling the children. I was so frightened that I couldn't si stir, and there I stood with my face against the window pane.Somehow it seemed I couldn't move.Then my heart gave a big jump, when suddenly the colonels eyes met mine.At first he turned deadly p pale, then he swore adreadful blasphemy and made for the door.As he moved, and some of his men inside followed my strength came back, and I tell you I mounted my horse and raced down the road at fullspeed, yet not so fast but that I could hear the thunder of many horses following as the Glandelinians pursued. Oh it was awful that mad race through the dark smoky woods.I don't think I'll ever be as frightened again, not even when I come to die.Even as I urged on my horse, I could tell that they were gaining on my me,and I called to God to help me, and prayed as I had never prayed before. My horse stumbled and fell but I was able to pull out my pistol and in my terror I shot that dark leader down.I was then rescued by a party of your men who had also been out scouting. Theycame just as I shut my eyes and said what I thought was to be my last prayer.

"Boy"said the Abyssinkalian leader."I know you , and you never need to fear that the Glandelinians will ever forget your face so be careful.They'll get you if they have to massacre the whole Regiment to get you.Those Glandelinians are Ossrians and they are dangerous, child murderers."

Gertrude put her hands into her waist pockets and stoood straight.It was her method of expressio expressing astonishment.

"Gracious"she said,"But those glandelinians are bad men.You ought'n to be afraid of them massacring us though.We can put up a good stiff fightttt."

"But I can't help it I am.it's is not so much fear of them as of my conduct that worry,worries me.Sometimes I wonder if I should have exposed their sure murderous work or not, wiping out a helpless family like that.Do you think I have."

As Gertrude was speaking, a look of horror had come upon Francis's face.

"Oh Miss Aronburg, I've forgotten how many of the Glandelinians there were. I've told you who the leader was but not the number of men."

"Gertrude was startled.Her hands went deeper into her pockets.

"Well"she inquired after a few moments reflection,"You did not men mean to make that mistake did you."?

"Honor bright, I didn't." prue protested Francis.

"Well then ,it is not any offense, because you can commit an offense against us unless you mean to-- that is what we are told in our military training.But if I had been in your place I'd have kept my eyes open."

"Well do you think I'm obliged to back go back and scout some more?"

"I don't know about that.I don't know but I'll tell you wa what;" ill ask Dolores about it, so she won't know that I mean any particular boy.What do you say to that.?"

"I think it is a very good idea."

Gertrude did half an hour after breakfast, and learned that a little mistake like that is not any offense.

"But"said Francis, when this news was imparted to him,"What shall I do about it.Do you think it is my duty to report the massacre?"

"I don't know Francis, you'd better think about it.Come on lets play catch, and Gertrude procu produced a ball from her pocket.They were hard at it, when Angeline Richee came riding up in great excitement.

" I say Gertrude"she began"Have you heard what the Glandelinians under general Isner mylet se have done ,,!!!"

"No what!"cinqui red both in a breath.

"They heavily cannonaded Vivianias army last night on Lebanon Creek, and made some fierce assaults, and were repulsed."

"It's sure good news, especially for you." said Gertrude.T"That proves that general Vivianias army was the bst army of all, and that the leaders are the strongest, hardiest, and most skilful and active of all.They are the constant theme of admiration to the world---an admiration not unmerited unmerited inso much as the Glandelinian armyunder Mylstze had over and over again defeated other christian armies.The results of the twenty four hours battle of Lebanon creek s consequently was in the eyes of all an opportunity to win glory.

"I'll tell you want"said Gertrude,"Let's make up a plan and help general Vivianis by wireless beat Mylstze to morrow."

Francis smiled, and looked at Gertrude as though he doub ted the the seriousness of this offierr.

"Get out." said Angeline Richee in disdain."Well have to have all the armies grow stronger day by day, and swell out in every direction before anyone can totally beat general Miedi Mylstze...."

"That's what you say"retorted Gertrude."But if you'll agree, we'll see about that.No look here Angeline you can make good plans, can't you?!?"

"A little"was Angelines mod modest reply.

"Very well,, you can make the plan, and I'll tell you its making.We'll work it together,and fix things as to at least fool some of Mylstzes generals. Dolores may get the makings too, she's a good plan drawer, and isn't afraid to make up anything you ask of her.Jean can write any kindof w wording, and you Francis can make any kind of figures.Angeline Jennings seems to be good at everything she does, and she can we sent it off by telegraph.Then general Vivianis can try to put it through, and we'll beat Mylstze in his own game. It'll be a chance."

"Pshaw"grumbled Angeline Richee.All those Glandelinian generals are Napoleons.Do you expect to see them beaten so easily."!

"That's about it!"

"Beat Mylstze and his generals."? reiterated Angeline Richee.

"That's just wh t what I said, if we take a few days for practice."

"Wire a hall."said Angeline Richee.

"Just wait will you.Now you and Francis go round quietly and get our girls together without letting ant of the camp know what is going on."

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With but little delay the boy and girl scout captians and other officers were brought toegether, whereupon Gertrude in a very low voice unfolded her plans. Indeed her hearers at first recieved the idea of Mylet Vivianan t outing Myletze in such plans as a bit of rash " presumption" but as Gertrude went on, they settled into earnestness t in such wise, that when finally she came to pa a pause, all agreed finally to her wishes.Fr m that moment on, Gertrude saw to it that her officers assign assigned were making up the code, and yet the work was so unobstructive unobtrusive so hidden, as to excite no comment among the others.

During the morning Gertrude had recieved a goodly news as to the outcome of the great conflict.She learned that general Francis Hansonia had taken extreme chances to hold his own ground, and gave the whole time to the holding tack of th e enemys assault, and the replying to their artillery, the cavarly had stop ed the Glandelinian artillery sometimes and repulsed the foe cavarly, while Evans and Nero employed most of their time applying their batteries.Nero was a plucky fighter, and even if he failed sometimes to hold successfully against a Glandelinian onslaught he was not afraid to try and stop it.His main idea in regarding i in regard to general Hansonia was to initiate a all his offic e officers into such military tricks as Nero's experiences could supply.whenever a lull had come in that dreadful nightly cannonade he had put his infantry into theirpositions, his smaller guns in front and rear, and his cavarly a little further to the left.It had been pleasing to Gertrude and Angeline Richee to read how deftly these officers had held their positions and so roughly handled the enemy.To g read of general Nero, being assaulted andvhis lines bended into almost impossible positions, and yet preparing to deliver a counter attack. Then there it went, right over the works, driving the enemy into thevtrenches beyond, and into an infilading fire, and the Glandelinian officers wonder how it happened.From the way general Thomas Harrison throws his columns against the Second Glandelinian divii division, a person would think it was a matter of life and death.But it is thrown too far, however general Ruthers seems to think the repulse of this column also a matter of life and death, for he hurls forward his Zimmermanniens, only to see them repulsed and gets wounded himself.

"Good gracious"exclaimed Dolores"But general Vivianis can fight all right."

"You're right,"said James as he walked in."Say Gertrude I think general Vivianis can fight the enemy any time, now, and right away."

"Not much"said Gertrude emphatically."There's a big thing he's got to look out for yet, if we fix that through ourpl plans he'll be all right."

"hat's that was the general Query.

"He's got to get usee d to Myletzes methods so as to do him easily.If he can do good work, Myletze some day will beat him badly.Now I'll tell you what,I've got a scheme to get the thing or bring th e thing the way we want it.It is this"I'll bet any boy or girl here my own cakes and ice cream for the next two days, and apple pies too ,my favorites, that general Vivianis will astill hold his ground at Lebanon Creek against all of Myletzes assaults if he follows out my plans."

"The cakes, apple pies, and ice creams were favorite stakes in the camp. They bet no money.By these ter e was understood the daily desert.

"I'll take you"said Angeline Richee, whi whose twinkling eyes gave evidence that she understood Gertrudes plan."And I'll give you my deserts if Myletzes wins..."

"Done "said Gertrude. clasping Angelines hand, and he hled it untill Dolorely kindly"cut" the bet."And I'll go half with Dolores if I we win.And what do you say ngeline if all these girls here, who have heard us make the bet, do the scouting to see how far away the battle ground is from here."

"I agree to that too."answered Angeline Richee, with a soluan wink. All now perceived the ruse, and were delighted with their parts.No matter who should win the bet, it would be a splendid opportunity for studying the situation ,and for getting some practice in real scout work.Therefore an hour after breakfast Angeline Jennings, and Minnie Saunders were somewhat astonished to find themselves w i waited on by a delegation of Girlscout officers.

".Lok here Angeline." miss Richee began "I want you to do me a favor. You see I made a bet to day, while those other girl and boyscouts were standing areund, that Myletze cannot forve force Vivianis from Lebanon Creek. Now if he does, you'll get my dessert for a week, if I lose, Gertrude will give you hers for a week."

Angeline Jennings jumped at the offer.

"Why of course I'll agree to that.That's fun for me."

"Thank you"said Gertrude gratefully."And I say Miss Jennings's gratefully "these girls are helping us form a plan that general Vivianis can carry out."

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"Oh that's all right" answered Angeline Jennings, putting on her coat. A scouting force was then appointed to wa the return of the scouts, whose duty was to try and locate the distance of general Vivianas army.They hoped that for at least some time general vivianis could contrive to hold general Myletze's hottest charges and artillery storms with approx. ease, while other generals could improve their own attacking and standing policies.Strange to say unknown to the girls because of his losses general Vivianas army at one that even by four o hours contest had begun to show signs of weakening, and there was danger of Angeline Richee winnin winning the bet.Gertrude however when she discovered this protested that she wassure she could win the wager when Myletze would renewthe contest.for sheknew that by a variety of devices general Vivianis had succeeding in getting his officers s getting in his officers an p opportunity of st dying and solving, Myletzes advances, and forays and other demonstrations.Nor was he satisfied once they had caught the knack of hitting Myletze.General Vivianis went further he insisted on forming higher positions and of strengthening the forces to get ready in case Myletze should attack again.He ga had a good r eason for this, as the issue will show.

The enemy High Mass at eight thirty this morning had just ended.If In one corner of a small yard of the orphan home, where now the girlscout officers had even sent up their own tents,, a knot of boy scouts had gathered together, and were indulging in a hearty laugh.

"Oh Jupiter."Hank Pitch exclaimed."If Gertrudes plans works won't Vivianis do Myletze up."

"Myletzes generals though are pretty cool for Wicked Glandelinians." remarked Jesse Jones, the captian of his own scouts.He was holding in his hands a note.

"What's the fun or argument now?!"asked James Sanders, who had arived late on the scene.

"The best joke of the season ,Jack." said Corner."Go on and read it to him Jones."

"Listen to this,said Jones,with a smile."

"St Gertrudes Orphan
Asylum.
August the 5Th.1913.

To Miss Anne Arenburg,

"Dear Miss Arenburg,We of the christian army under Vivianis have recieved your plans and will when the opportunity presents itself challenge the enemy to a pitched battle on the afternoon of August the seventh.

Respectfully;
General Francis Hansonia."

"but James did not laugh.

"The Glandelinian generals under Myletze, may be wicked, but they are no slouch slouch slouches.As for vivianis, and his generals they have not fought a pitched battle since they opposed one another, and some of the generals need reinforcements badly."

"Oh Pshaw." said Pitchy."They need no prate practice to whip those Glandelinians.vivianis battle against Myletze near Gasaplania, and though he didn't win it showsnevertheless that the did not win it shows nevertheless thatwhen he recieved enough help he can knoc knock Myletze all over."

"I can also capture the moon!" said Jack scornfully."I know Myletze Myletze like my own father, and it'll take almighty good commander to lick that Glandelinian, general Grant."

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GENERALC VIVIANIA TRIES TO FRUSTRATE THE ENEMY.

THE HORRORS OF WAR EXPLAINED.

TROUBLE AHEAD....!.!!.

No matter what the doubts were of James ² Sanders, many of the girls and bo boy scouts knew that general Vivianis would decide to follow out the plans of Gertrude as soon as possible.Accordingly after the interview of the boys they went to their respotive commands to do some drilling.

In the meantime general Vivianis decided to make his preparations to carry out his l plans.All of his officers had hurried from their headquarters to to an open field beyond a stretch of strange blue glass, where they were presently swelled in number by the arival of the officers of lower commands, who having heard of general Vivianias plans, and knowing him as a good fighter fighter were anxious to study his methods in the plans which Gertrude had written down and sent to him.

At five minutes to eight, general Calahan sent a five cent piece spinning in the air.

"Heads."said Tomash Manders.

Heads it was, and the captian general slel had to do the main work.

"Time to move forward" bawled emperor Vivian, as general George Keenan rode up to the front."but be careful do not draw the enemys fire."

The column of troops that came hurriedly from the right into a new position assigned to them seemed to be in a great hurry.They fairly came at a run.

"One column to the left."shouted the commanders.

Then came another column, and delpoyed to the lefft also.

The third column could have been a tempting to the enemy had he observed the movement, and was just then where Mylette would have wanted it.But general vivianis according to Gertrudes plan had started big smoke fires to hide his movements.however it was one of those deceitfully slow fires, and Mylette could see nothing, and thought that the forest gannear his enemys positions had been set afire by Vivianis himself, and thought within himself;

"We glandelinians do not make all the forest fires."

Early that nigh night Mylettes troops had lunged vigious vigoriously, but as the resistance of the christian troops had been fury to wildness, he had been forced to withdraw the onset, and had been within an ace of losing all his men in that attack.Before he could recover himself the christian artillery had done up some of his batteries, and now it was all silent.

"Two divisions to the center."cried general Hansonia.

some of the other officers laughed, general George tried to look easy, and general Thomas's troops moved up behind the other columns. George next put in his forces, but because of the mud and slant of the slopes he was was too slow,, but he brought them up and finally rode away to sent forward his artillery wearing the hollow mask of a smile, while the soldiers all in favor of the position applauded lustily.General Shand next came into the new new p s position, only to extend his lines further, and ordered general Donly Peters forward.General Hansonia and others followed, and took possession of the field a few moor Sanitary Creek.

General Harryson opening the main demonstration for his own side of the troops by popping up an easy section of the positions, and before reaching the advanced works, changed his mind and placed the artillery there instead and the infantry behind. General Thomas Rhines now advanced his divisions to the right forming them into an angle of positions, and after placing two batteries , placed his cavarly in the rear as a covering party.As the troops deployed to the right of the works, Thomas ran up a second division.Then arouse a shout of tru triumph from the crowd of soldiers, as general Joseph White brought up his park of machine guns to place to defensive operations in case the enemy should resume the fray.General Rutherson Whillias gave variety to this stage of the placing of troops into position by moving out to give place for Beppo Evans Veterans.General Aldine followed with his Abyssinkilians, and Pitchington and Conway, who had the Do mdohians both threw in their own men so that the positions were full.....

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Two generals however made a blunder.General C ll Colk Calah an put his troops where general Hans was supposed to have placed his, and general Hans placed his division where Calahans works were.

"You idiot.what did you do that for!" general Pitch blurted."You two are in the most exposed positions."

"Who me!" inquired general Calahan, as he looked over the scene to see what his mistake was.

"Yes you."

"Oh I thought you were talking to the other.I couldn't help it.Hans marched his troops in here first.I wouldn't do this on purpose for a fortune if I could help myself."

"Well get out, while the getting out is good.You'll be annihilated yet if the enemy should attack."

Taking advantage of this altercation, general Joseph Hardrude, who had taken possession of the third new line of works along sanitary Creek, moved in.The next division, the Concentinians under general Hendro Underwood, got into position with ease. Conway also brought up all his field artillery, saw a good place to put them into position, and did so, and placed them so the position would be a snare if the enemy should make an attack.Tois nine divisions of the best trained Concentinians which had recently covered themselves with honors, came into position with Pitch and Conway bringing up two batteries of artillery. Each position in long rows was for ed several yards each above the other.In the fifth position general Pitch who had lost his head column in the battle of Richoss farm, let several batteries pass him to go into position on the right ,while Conway brought up his Calvorinians, and two Corps of Angolinians.Therefore or consequently generals George Keenan and Outdare were ordered to take position in the rear.

"If the Glandelinians can carry this new position, I won't fight any longer" said general Pitch, as he directed the placing of his last battery."

"If they do it'll be a miracle." said general Conway.

"We have every thing in position now"said general Donnel at this juncture. "We kept the big smoke screen before us, and there- therefore the enemy could not see what we were doing.We are all finished now, and we can only wait now to see what Mylette will do."

The suggestion was good, and they hoped Mylette, with his red hatted officers would be beaten in the field, outwitted at generalship, and to be worsted in attack would not be then in condition to continue the camp campaign. As all were in position,a tumultious applause arose from all the troop.

"General Hansoni a,"said Vivianis,"I've been an officer in the army since I was twenty years old, and honestly I've never seen a bunch of officers better trained than yours.We sure deserve to win a good victory this time."

Vivianias words voiced the general opinion. Han Hansonius training had been successful.On one occassion during the placing of troops, general Hansonia called Calahan out of a dangerous section of ground, when he thought he was safe, but not by the least word or look did Calahan or any one of his staff, show dissa r dissas dissatisfaction.So it was during the entire time of day and night of placing troops into positions, the officers cheerfully accepted every direction.This is one point of their training, but it is a point which I enlarge upon for the simple reason that few armies had these kind of officers, and which for the wonderous commanders was to turn out for Vivianis the best of all christian armies in the war.

"Glandelinia"said Gertrude, seems because of this war to be already subjected to constitutional derangement.The fires and horrible impurities of this dreadful war have as we know manifested themselves in the shape of great conflagrations, floods, terrific battles, all kinds of calamities, massacres, and a complication of other disasters.The internal heat of the earth, and the chemical changes which are constantly taking place in the interior of the globe, and which manifest themselves outwardly in the form of earthquakes and volcanoes are outrivaled by these great calamities of the war.In other words, girls, it does look right here, as if we were souls placed into hell by mistake, when we have committed no sin.What are we going to do.Try to cross the gulf ourselves or wait till the earth swallows us up.,isn't there no way to general Vivians army.Are we to be stuck here for a whole year!!!""

"You Gertrude"said Angeline Richee, are asking us girls a question, which the highest and most learned kind of a school teacher could not even answer..I'm going to ask you a question too Gertrude!"

"What is it!"

"The same one you asked."

"Well then we are stuck here. Scientists have advanced many great theories concerning the primary causes of our war disasters, and many explanations

relating to the dreadful consequences. Investigators say that the heat of these forest fires have turned the rocky slopes of mountains for a time like the molten matter discharged from volcanoc craters. Like the doctors who disagree in the diagnosis of a human malady, all scientists are equally unable to agree in all details con cerning how the enemy had been able to create these disasters which seem far greater than that done by nature. After all theories relating to the cause of the Abbiesann horror, these gigantic floods and forest fires have all been considered, the one that is most tenable and is sustained by the largest number of scientific men is that which traces back to our "Red Plague" and all know that can be done by bonfire or torch. Only in this way can the forest fires be accounted for."

"One thing I would like to ask." said Angeline Jennings, "Is why the great heat of these forest fires do not produce rain. You know great heat generally does."?

"How could you expect it to do it."?

"Why we children ourselves when we went to school learned in our Geographies that heat generates an upward, and outward force, and like all other forces that it follows the path of least resistance. Up high it is said to be always cold. The heat of these fires seem as great as those of the internal regions of the heart. Yet it does not rain. And I have heard that locally forest fires produce gigantic storms."

"Maybe they do sometimes." said Gertrude. "When conditions occur by which wh c which they can outwardly manifest themselves, and follows the natural law it may. But the forest fire can prevent it too you know." And what they say prevents the rain, is the "fire hurricane"."

"But that seems strange." said Angeline Jennings. "Does something more than the mere pr s presence of forest fires be necessary to account for big rainstorms, although it may in a large degree account for hot waves and arid dry spells over good sections of the country?"

"We do not know." said Gertrude. T"The elements which enter into these forest fires are fire, and hot winds and smoke. The characteristic phenomena of such forest fires as these in Southeastern Calverinia is the heat which whe w whether the wind if from the blaze or tward it, is felt at a long distance. This proved theory is plainly illustrated in the reported high temperatures in towns a more than a hundred miles away, which is merely a small account. That is why it seems Calverinia in her eastern part has sank into great internal heat, and that all the men mustered from towns and cities and even soldiers cannot stop these bl azes. If it did rain, it would be worse for us. The country would be smoked and steamed out. The fire are by now a hundred miles in extent in one blaze, and hundreds of miles in smaller conflagrations and that c accounts for us not having sunlight. Yet rain seems our only hope."

"One thing the Emperor planned to stop these fires" said Dolores, "and it seemed the simplest plan was likewise to illustrate a long line of mine explosions. Observations of the extent of these Red Plagues, showed him that probably only terrific explosions mighty enough to raze wide clearings in the path of the fires might stop their progress, and that also a great quanity of water which have been temporarily imprisoned in the neighborhood could be suddenly let loose upon the burning territory. If it does happen to be done it would be a tremendous effort, a great work indeed. But the smoke is harder to battle than the flames. In minor forest fires, the presence of so much smoke is not noticeable in such quantities, which is simply because the extent of the fires are small, and the amount of smoke formed is merely a smudge. The awful rolls we see in these fires is expelled by the upward force of the great internallike heat rising so high into the air. The two lines of main fires, one north, and south and moving northwestward the other east and west and moving northward, the one holding us here, which intersect the neighborhood of the western Mic-Hollester Run Forest Territory, follow the courses, where the extensive forests are thickest, and where there is very little moisture. The terrific heat therefore of these fires which are imprisoning us here is sufficient to cause even rocks to melt on the sides of flame forested mountain slopes, and the character of the conflagration is determined largely by the sizes of the forests so burning, and the amount of fuel which the fires burn. The temperature of these forest fires can only be guessed at, but some idea may be formed of their intense heat from the streams of melted slope rocks we have seen go down hillsides. You remember we saw one run t ten or twelve miles in the open air before cooling sufficiently to re-solidify. From this strange event it can be seen by us ourselves that the forest fires are much hotter than are required merely to reduce the rock to a liquid form. From this fat too may be seen the instantious action by which the waters of streams and brooks converged in these fires are

converted into steam, and the streams dried up."

"The calamities which has befallen all parts of Calverinia, and her sister states" gertrude went on will unquestionably lead to many discussions of the causes of these strange disturbances, as they will be investigated for the good of the cause, and to see whether the Abbiesann horror was really strange eruptive disasters or whether the enemy was respon l responsib e. Not all o f the strange phenomoens involved therein of these catastrophes are yet fully understood, because of their awful magnitude, and concerning all of them except the forest fires, there are perceptible differences of opinions among many of the experts. On at least one point however there is general agreement, and that is of our forest fires. Of the other disasters, there is a general disagreeablement disagreement...."

"On what is the general agreement?" asked Jane.

"That the fire has been caused b y both battles, and the enemy."

"And said Dolores, "the heat of the fires are said to be great enough to melt every known substances explo exposed to it. There is a growing tendency moreover to recognizing the importance of fierce winds to spread the rapidly advancing fo est forest fires. The extent of these fires have become almost inconcievable, and it certainly ought to cause well the governments of our States to draft every ablebodied man who is not in the army to sentout to help the townsfolks and Rangers fight this "Red Plague. The Rangers Russel Mic-Hollester, Gilbert Henrt regard this as a complete necessity, at least when the fire has gained such a proportions. As to the extent to which the waters too could be used, there is some lack of harmony among the fo est forest rangers. Wanson, Shaler, Milne and others hold that if Dams and levee protected lakes would be in the neighborhood, and could be gradually relea- s released upon the "Red Plague" it would probably be quenched. And they too hold that the enemy largely, if not entirely is responsible for the trouble. They pointed to the fact that many of these forest fires are also raging near the coast of our Calverinian Continents, and away from where out floods are raging. Russel on the other hand regarded that if anyportion of the flood could be released upon the conflagration it might be the initial factor to the fires finish, but he too suspects that the waters are on too low a level to reach the burning mountian slopes. He susps ts too that when the fires have traveled to a considerable distance it encounters rivers and streams of small sizes, and steam is suddenly generated untill all the water is boiled away, and then the sandy bottom becomes red hot. The flames originate the ormormous clouds of smoke which darkenens the whole country for many thou sands of miles. whatever the fires strike to produce great explosions no one knows but explosions occur, and shocks of greater or less violence are also produced. The less severe explosions no doubt sound like the discharge or big fire crackers or artillery and give rise of tremors in the immediate vinicity. Wither the ex losions can be that of Rangers dynimiting or something explosive that fire hits. The culminatingvepisode of the Abbi annia Abbiesann "Eruption" resulting so disasterous dissastericus throughout the country is believed just now to be du to the cause of underground volcanic eruptions produced by recent floods and their weight. To these particular explosions too it seems safe to assign the upheaval of so much water as if from a tidal wave. The greatest mystery of all pertaining to the catastrophe is where did all the water come from... "

"Couldn't it have been from the Prainie Run River?"

"No. No water came from there, and its leveed were not the least affected." said Gertrude. "The water seemed to come northeast of Abbiesann."

"The precise manner in which the waters came upon Abbiesann, and then swept across so much country and still remains so many weeks is not entirely clear." said Angeline Richee. "Nevertheless, it is possible toget some light on the matter."

"How?" asked all the girls in one voice.

"Why it is well known that in many places far up north of Abbiesann there are monsterious reservioirs or "Lems. "One of them have been wide and deep enough to hold enough water to fill a lake the size of some of the distant American Lakes. "One who have not yet investigated believe that some of these were bursted by the concussions and that the flood was therefore formed by their outbreaks. It has been observed that many other floods have been caused by similar faults."

"Yes" said Jean "But t l teleg raphic reports from what up there say all the reservioirs and dams are safe, and nothing was even felt there. so the waters must have come from the northern portions of Lake Angeline. A levee there was thrown down investigators say."."

"No" said Gertrude the waters did not come from there, as the flood went partly into Lake Angeline rose it enough to inundate Abbiesann as it di and go southward. The lake recieved the flood."

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"Then what could do it?" asked Jack Sanders."The existance of those dams north east of Abbieann could suggest the probabilities, that they must have given way somewhere nand that the flood followed a northeast course going southwest though the issue of the waters many have also been limited to a few isolated points. If these dams are safe then the waters must have sprang from the earth.If the dams did it not, where did the flood all come from?"

"Just where this flood came from is one of the most difficult questions still left for investigation."said Gertrude.

"And who is going to do the investigating?"

"You." jested Gertrude.

"I? A dumb dora like me investigate.What do I know about Science.?"

"Nonthing."

"And I investigate.I'd be telling a pretty story to the surthorities."

"Why not suggest the work to Hendro Dargar the great Gemini.?" said Jane Nelfort.

"Professor Dargar has plenty to do besides that."sdeclared Mary Stanck.

"Yet"said Dolores Professor Dargar suggests that the breaking of levees from the Mic-Wollester Run or some other exciting cause may be responsible for the flood.Other geologists have found a similar explanation in the case of floods elsewhere during the war.The theory has much to commend it to favor as all rivers were flooded by recent rains up north during spring."

"Yes but rivers could not make all this water!" said Maria Clorinia."

"Yes they could.If levees were all broken."

"The Abbieann disaster already has drawn from geologists, flood investigators and even volcanists many expressions of opinions, and explan ations of probable volcanic phenomena which set forth in details the causes and effects of volcanic eruptions, in partic lar and earthquakes in general." said Mildred."

"But I don't believe they were volcanic phenomena and earthquakes"said Gertrude."And so also Violet, and her sisters."

"I don't either"said the other girls.

"I'll stake my life on a bet that the enemy did it."said Mildred.

"Whatever it is"said Catherine Estrabrook" Dargar and many of his members have made a special study of the causes of these disasters.Dargar has made a trip to the Abbieann horror as far as it is possible to go forpurposes of study to see whether the disasters were of volcanic origin or not.We too you know is an authority upon volcanography....."

"There are too monsterous stretches of the Clandelinian armies throughout Calverinia." said Elsie Muth Mic-Whirther."One extends along the southern boundary of Calverinia, and extends also northward and southward, tho through a part of Angeline Vine State, and down through western Calverinia, the other north and south through southeastern Calverinia.These Clandelinian armies as the maps seems to indicate seems tointersect at two points.One of these is under the Nicknolls, which includes Raymond Richardson Federal, the others are under the Manleys, and the Tamerlines.Of the latter so far little is yet known, they are only soon coming into the drama.Of the former the main leaders in charge are the Terrible Manleys.It is of these generalsone or the other we can suspect reason responsible for the terrible disasters, and where later on we can expect unusal activities of the war, and is from them sooner or later we shall soon find it.There has been more or less theorizing as to battle disturbances, moving or raging, in cycles, but it cannot be proved.One fact is established girls, and that is the best way we can worst the enemy is to know exactly what he is up to.This is proved by the great losses the accompany the action when you do not know the enemy and his ways. The old theory that the very center of the Clandelinian army is the most powerful is no lon ger held sure."Dargar asserts the latest idea is that anyportion of the enemys army can be apparently held for long time more ridig than steel.The ever advading foe causes massive christian lines to give continually, to sag, and form what is called"Wrinkling"when the opposing forces do not understand the enemys methods.The same with the enemys purpose of making disaster, and the result is what we observe now, explosion, flood, and fire and a complication of many other disasters."

"I'm afraid-"declared Mildred,"that there is no part of the countries of Calverinia which is exempt exp exempth from the disasters of the war,and there will be no regularity in their appearance.We all knows that all wars are always complica ted by all disasters and scourges.Recently there was disasters at Lake Salicia which resulted in that big flood last November in which many lives were lost, and unusually great suffering was produced.As it is impossible to predict where the next great disaster will take place girls, it is alsoimpossible to tell where it will be.It will certainly be somewh r somewhere where disasters have not occured yet..."""""""

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"And" sa d said Francis Pic'ford" "All this is of unusual expectations as showing that the enemy is still as dangerous as we suspected her to be before and after the great confli ct began.We see the same thing in our big forest blazes. nd And throughout the war some the most decided changes have taken place since the last three or four months..even now clas have been discovered, and siesmic theories as to the Abbieann disasters not confirmed, and mostly disproved. A volcano always throws off all kinds of materials, and the lava is of two two kinds, and none of these have been found in or near the great explosion craters fourty miles north of Abbieann.so the disaster is a mystery greater than any to be ever solved.The government has offered a tremendous reward to those who have solved it."

"You are saying something unusual"said Gertrude"but you may be right at that. Owing to the violence of the concussions of the explosions it is probable that most of the tallest buildings in Abbieann had been overthrown as if there had been an earthquake, and that many of the victims not swept away by the flood were smothered under the debris or crushed and so died quickly.Others doubtless were buried in all kinds of rubbish or were over whelmed by the flood.It is indeed a horrible disaster and one which we and the whole world may well continue to pray that god won't allow to be duplicated. Science however has no means of knowing wh at the disturn disturbance really was, and whether it may not occur again..... "

"Nevertheless "said Joy"the danger of living in proximity to a war zone is usually well known, but the foolish people hate to leave.They sometimes don't believe the enemy is that bad."

"Well the survivors of these disasters know it now."said Penrod dryly.

"The country east of us sure in is in grave danger."said Angelines Richee."

"Wow!"

"Across the Mic-Wollester Run Stream extends a sea of magestic dense pine forests as thick as a impassable jungle, and evidently the forest fires will come up to them at some unexpected and inopportune moment.These dense forests traversed by only few wide roads, and many narrow trails commencing with Tanners Woods, near Evangeline St Claire, and ending with the Maria Os borne woods consist of all but turpentine trees, and trees with rosin and other inflamable sap, and on the ground high weeds and growth that burn like gasoline. For nearly one hundred days in that locality it has never rained a drop this year, there has not been the slightest sign of rain and therefore we have grown to class these beautiful forests as dangerous. The strange pine trees that make the forests like like a sea of giant paraley at a distance is the greatest menance.If these catch fire, god help Calverinia."

"What I would say now"""declared Penrod,,,"The outbursts of the disasters at Abbieann, in the Bengall State, near Belgel county is apparently the culmination of a number of recent war disasters of the past few months, and last Novemember too which have been unusually severe.L Lake Salicia but few months previous in last mill was devastating the country because the enemy destroyed its levees, while Tirentown and other places, the Capital of Angeline Vine State was nearly destroyed by forest fires that came up.Only a few days before, an explosion occured somewhere near Arenburgs Run, and the cities of southern Calverinia were destroyed by the concussions and floods that followed.Clandelinia denies all these but the ef eviconce evidence was against her on these occassions..and people at first thought these shocks were nothing but tremendous earthquakes."

"But supposing that the enemy is gul guilty, why does he do it?" asked Mary Stanck.

"No one knows "said Penrod."Clandelinia's outbreaks are merely like the exposions of steam under high pressure.Her worse method of d vastation though which I believe is her creating of forest fires."any rangers wrote that even the rocky slopes of thickly forested hills which are afire are subk subjected to such tremendous heat that when the conditions are right they run into molten matter, and the very dirt is burned three feet deep,and those who do not know forest fires would literally believed believe the whole scene before them is terrific volcanic eruptions. The common belief is that forest fires are hotter than even lakes of molten lava that makes a forest fire worse is the foliage on the ground which leaves fallen from trees in fall have lain on the ground for many ages becoming buried deeper and deeper under masses of like peat and so forth which are constantly being covered from more falling foliage from above.This process is called the blanketing process which I've learned in school in my geographies. When the first layer had reached a depth of several yards or more and they are then subjected to the terrific heat of these fires, these burn on for weeks when the main fire sea passed and create all the smoke that kills our sum-

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light throughout the whole country. This heat and smoulder generat es these huge smothering dense clouds of smoke and no wonder it seems as if thousands of great volcanic eruptions occur at one time in that locality.And that is why I believe rain would be more disasterious at this time. It may quence thd the blazing trees, but soaking the upper lay of the burning masses on the ground would create ten times the amount of smoke which would put the whole Nation into frightful darkness for weeks and weeks//.Fissures have been caused by the terrific flames burning through the ground, and where the deep explosions come from no one knows unless the fires reach some gas pockets in holes of unusuall gas caverns.The smoke too has risen so high no doubt as to escape the earths attraxtion and float by itself through space.Lave ha Rocks have been melted by the heat on mountian sides, that I have heard persons say who observe it,"volcanoes are erupting.See the lava pouring forth."And yet this is merely melted rocks on the slops of hills which was turned so by the hat of the dreadful flames..Rangers have proved this.They say the heat is so fierce it could singe you to death two miles from the conflagration if the wind is from it or not."

"It may be than violent shocks and tremors came during the Abbiesnn explosions"said Minnie"but it does not necessarily follow that the two may have occured together.Oftentimes we hear of many big explosions with no apparent accompaniment.This was true of the Lake Salicia crash of November 1912.The destruction of towns are caused by the mysterious disturbances in the air called sudden violent air waves.And the mostly co mon accepted belief is that the air becomes more disturbed than a cyclone from these explosions and that does the damage."

"Nevertheless"continued Penrod"the Abbie Abbiesnn horror will be known as the greatest shocks n and disasters in all history.Fifteen explosions occured at one time, and outrivaled even the eruptions of Krakatoa for each blast and shock.Both the ground and the air was badly shaken so as to over throw everything. I was told that the explosions could be heard for more than 10f000 miles and the earths tr or earths tremors were felt all over the Nation and for thousands of miles beyond, and the air nearly all over the world.Whether this is true we cannot confirm.The air waves following the explosions didlike the Krakatoa explosions, are believed to have passed around the world eighteen times or more.We all know from the description of the Scientistsathe face of the land and waterw ys in the vinicity of the Abbiesnn horror had been com pletly changed."

"What made you think ,and say that?"asked the girls in a chours chorus.

"Why because a m ajority of of these great explosion disasters have been believed to have been volcanic eruptions.Why it even is now the accepted belief that the explosions are of natural consequences.Yet whatever it was it was these explosiveoutbursts which brought to our country such wide spread destruction, and now as the world began g begins to know more about it, they found and find it astonishing beyond their l belief to learn and know of the tremendouspower even one of those Abbiesnn explosions have unleashed."

"That may be so"said Mary Stanck."It would be just like cold water going upon a molten mass or as would the pouring of water into a red hot boiler.

Fortunately it is notlike this with forest fires.We have readily observed how the heat of flames have ev eporated away the streams and creeks, and the fires crossed at those points.So if water were now to search out those terrific terrifically hot ash eas to a deep and s mouldering it is not hard to imagine what the result would be.There are we know two classes of great forest fires--those with the greatest bear heat, and they are the ground, and the crown.When they are both at once then nothing can stop them."

"How about a cloudburst?"

"Maybe .But who is going to produce one ?You."

"I'll pray for one."

"Go ahead. That's better than fire."

And every one laughed.

Then Penrod said -

"Hendro Dargar who is the highest aurthority in the world on Volcanic xal explosions, and forest fires, classifies forest fires into two grades, "Those that move very slowly and are searingly hot and smother the whole country in smoke.Those that advance and destroys most rapidly. The latter if they are a combination of ground and crown fire are the most dangerous to human life and the very physical face of a forested country.Worse than the worst volcanic eruptions even.Forest fires that burn slow are comparatively harmless if fought on time.But if it is not resisted it will grow and grow

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and and finally the blazing and s mouldering fires accumulate that sooner or later must burst forth into a frightful conflagration, and then the terrific disasters of this nature takes place.It is the same case with a combination forest fire."

"Is it likely that th re there are p spots in this country at present"asked Jean"where av a greater disaster than any of those yet may occur?"

"It is almost certain there are."said Gertrude.

"Some in Calverinia ?"

" Many in Calverinia.Calverinia is wiped out for one third."

"Some in Abbiesnnia?"

"Undoubtedly."

"Hendro Dargar the eminent geologist and aurthority on Fo est fires, earthquakes, and volcanology, declared that there is grave danger that most of the softer earth inunded inundated so deeply by the floods will sink lower then their former level before the weight of the flood, and that the country will lose all means for wooden m terials because of the great "Red Plague rav ging the country.More than that,he says the Mic-Hollester Run region is in great danger, because it is in the p ath of the "Red Plague" zone."

"Let's hope he's mistaken"said Mildred.

"Yes"admitted Penrod,"But in my opinion the forest fires and floods are not the only things to be feared.It is a altogather likely that the forest fires for one now going so fiercely may result in the collapse in all lumber businesses, and to ruin the nation .The constant progress of the flames y u must know must mean that a desert as it were is being made where our forests once stood.When this sea of smouldering waste reaches a great size, then serious consequences may follow.The Mic-Hollester, Tanner, and the Marie Osborne Woods and the forests of the neighboring regions of the Cardean State are situated in a region where the forests are bound to be so thi thick as to be only navagated by roads and paths, and they are parallel with the bif big Mic-Hollester and Aronburg Run Rivers and extend to the opposite sideof the Norma's Run and Evangeline St Claire Rivers.The rangers and drafted and volunteer citizens are fighting most madly to prevent the blaze from reaching these sections.This endangered region extends westward across the Erminie Run into Calverinia proper, where are located some of the most inflamable forests in the world, the Mic-Hollester Woods, the Marie Osborne, and more dangerous still the strangely named "Red Riding Hood Woods, the latter which if they catch afire, all else will also go.This region of Red Riding Hood forests includes nearly the whole of eastern and south and central Calverinia.The Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala forests have been repeatedly watched, and thousands are out to work if necessity compells it, but it should be no surprise to hear sooner or later of either one of these forest sections bursting into flame.We do not worry so much about some some of the other forests, the main danger of all lies if the fire sweeps up to the "Red Riding Hood "turpentine and Rosen and tar forests, ware there are so many pitch and inflamable oil and tar bogs to boot.Every means is being effected toprevent the "Red Plague from coming up there."

"What seems strange to us."Sedition-aline Jennings"Is that our own National Geographic Society,sent fourteen men geographicers to make a special study of the supposed"eruptions" in Bengall State north of Abbi sam, Professor Dargar Of the Jessihi being the leader, who after a careful examination of the desolated area related important scientific phases of the great disaster but declared there were so such signs as of eruptions having taken place.He took collections of data concerning the main and nearest explosion craters, and this had been i mediately begun.He declared the situation was practically like that of the Lake Salicia Disturbance of Novem ber last yeer but of far greater scale.He said there was no evidence of there having been any earth shakes produced by the blasts, and that the explosions caused tremendous air waves that razed Abbiesnn and other cities and towns. Dargar even went to see if Mt Calverine was in eruption as had been reported and found it was not so."

"But that does not show that any one ever could find out the real cause"said Dolores."One witness who was a refuge of the blasted town of Mic-Allister told me he saw a vast column of what he mistook to be volcanic dust cindors blocks of lava and gases to rise many thousands of feet into the air spreading in all directions, and that a lareportion of this cloud reached high into the upper regions of the sky encountered a new wind up there was carried westward and began falling.It was again divided,and he then said he saw fourteen other clouds like that follow in quick succession. He stated there were no e arth shocks where he was, but the wrecked houses

of his town showed there was some disturbance caused by the explosions, the windows on the side facing southward not being injured while those facing the north were wrecked by some strange and fierce motion of the air.This they say facilitated the devastation of so much of the country that horrible night. Materials of all kinds he said fell from the sky striking persons and causing bad wounds.Great blocks of stones were thrown great distances, which could be distinctly seen sixteen miles from one of the "craters"..

"How did the city of Irishtown be surprised by the forest blaze that struck it?" asked Penrod.

"Cornecrning that disaster" Gertrude said"No one knows for they had ample warning enough.Anyincrease in the temperature of the weather was observed by the citizens of that city as much as two weeks before the fire came, while a stream of water then runs through the city from the south east was unusually warm.The residents of Irishtown however, all considered that a change of wind would favor them, and that the dreaded fire would not come up.Three days before the fire there was an increase of temperature in the winds and air, and soon afterwards many manifestations of the dangers were more promo pronounced.Winds began to rise, suffocating heat filled the air at intervals, and the warming phenomena increased until they became alarming.Sandford town was overwhelmed by the flames which had burned toward the village with fearful rapidity.The pretty little lake which occupied a beautiful park had disappeared, and the flames had rushed on spreading death and destruct destruction in their wake.Then the final drama took place and devastated the city of Irishtown, wiping out the buildings and not allowing the refugees to even have time to save their belongings.Vast columns of smoke rose to a height over seventeen miles above the conflagration as measured by a foreign correspondent at Sperry ville which too was in danger."

"A forest fire is a dreadful thing""said Jane."But what is a "fire hurricane."

"It's a tornado of hot suffocating wind and gases that blows in advance of the conflagration." said Gertrude."This accounts for the statement which has been made that asphyxiation of the fleeing refugees sometimes proceeds the burning of the trees.The gas is said to be some kind of deadly carbureted hydrogen produced by the tremendous heat of the flames, and it and the heats of the conflagrations produces some sort of whirling windstorm in advance which blows like a cyclone.Sometimes the fire hurricane blowslike a tornado and nothing stands before it Sometimes the people who see the fires also observe something like molten lava flowing down the slopes of the burning hills and they therefore mistake such a scene as a volcanic eruption but that is not lava just melted rock substance not able to resist the heat of the terrific flames.The great emission of suffocating smoke gases are among the new features which these forest fires have added to the knowledge of forest fires.Dargar was the first man who set foot in the area of explosion craters, fissures and rents in the Abbicamn region and because of his high position not only as a scientist but as the Supreme Member of the Gemini, his predictions and stories are valuable and fully believed. He said there were three well marked zones of devastation in Fair Calvarinia.First ,a center of annihilation, caused by the explosion explosions, in which allife in big cities ,vegetable and animal also were utterly destroyed,--especially the greater northern part part of Abbicamn was in this zone, second, a zone of flood extending over the country beyond measure, third a zone of a raging, big blistering forest fires of same unknown extent, burning everything even deep ground foliage, consuming even what persons believe fires could not destroy. The focus of annihilation was the strange explosions north of Abbicamn where so many believed existed an area of volcanism, but found not to be so.The destruction of Abbicamn was due to both earth concussion and air waves The explosions as it seemed from the method of wrecking had great superficial force, acting in radical directions, as is evidenced by the leveling of whole towns closest by and also by the conditions of the ruined houses not under flood in Northern Abbicamn.According to the testimony of some persons there was an accompanying flame This is being investigated every one who went i are following the nature of this Dargar wrote to Violet and her sisters that he had first started to visit what he could of Abbicamn and returned the same evening fully the first nearly exhausted.He was near the unflooded ruins of Abbicamn after the series of explosions, and was able to describe the nature of the ruins from close observations, though his attempts to examine the flood region was futile.He succeeded however in getting close to north Abbicamn higher up, where near by the most frightful explosions may have occured.He wrote to the Vivian Girls, that while the enemy continuing continue to create such disasters no one who is sane among the population should attempt to remain in Calvarinia"

"And Dargar took many photographs, but did not hesitate to acknowledge that he was scared."said Mary Stanuk.But he was not the only person so frightened.Three foreign Newspaper Correspondents who were close to Abbicamn some hours before Dargar arrived, saw a party of Glendaliminns, became scared, ran three miles down a road, and hastened into a dense forest to hide.The people far north of Abbicamn are terrified,and are fleeing.Nearly all the phenomena of these disasters are extremely new to science, and none of them have yet been explained. And the terrible war is still intensive and severe, the enemy is greatly active, and no one can make any good predictions as to what it shall do."

As she finished speaking the girlscouts noticed a gigantic mushroom shaped cloud of smoke ascend into the murky sky, and spread in a vast black rolled up sheet to the south and directly over their heads and over the house.This for them was a most important observation and explained in part the awful catastrophe continuing.

Gertrudes improvement in her work was not limited to just scouting, and other skills military work, though in class and out she had advanced most rapidly.However nothing perhaps, had so helped her as her choice of Enid friends friends.And from among all the boyscouts, she had selected as her chief chums and helpers and advisers Penrod, Jack Sanders, and Joe White. Penrod himself severe in military bearing as he was had a great amount of practical common sense piety.No one enjoyed a joke or a laugh more heartily than he did, but he knew where to draw the line..when in military affairs however, in he from sheer necessity could not and was not too easy of disposition, in fact any one who knew him could see he was not easily led, nor was he fooled or bribed.Those who knew him and yet did not like him feared him. Penrod however was sensible and would rather yeild to anything when he knew that he was wrong than quarrel or make trouble.But when it came to a choice between right and wrong, he was firm as a rock .When he drilled all of gertrudes troop for her; he was to the mark, and every one did as he commanded or else--- one instance will give an idea of Penrods method on such occasions. During the time that Gertrude was in conversation with her girlscout leaders on the horrors of war just recently read, he had drew all the rest into the drill fields of the yards. Every body did their work properly, but once though not paying attention James Green did not hold his point, when the army was to do a double swing, and the drilling like to Penrods mortification was thrown out of shape entirely. We do not need to narrative what Penrod said here on this occassion; but after this James Green watchedhimself and took care that he did not make the slightest mistake, though after drill hours he had to live on bread and water for three days.It seemed a little too severe no doubt, but somehow or other nobody seemed to like "Jr" Green.Despite that he had been a little careless when he was first known Jack sanders, and his friend Joe White were very bright, pleasant little lads reflecting the virtues of all their boy and girl heroes, especially Gertrude and Angeline nichee.

O taide of James Green all the girl and boyscouts whether leaders or not were something more than ordinarily pious girls and boyscouts.They all actually revered both Gertrude and Angeline nichee.They were every one of them remarkable for their gentleness to each other; and their bravery.Even their meek little ways wrought wonders upon Sawire Gertie Gertrude and Penrod.They seemed unconsciously to catch their gentleness,and always joined with him or them in their little devotions, that touched and refined their lives into spiritual beauty.Gertrude and Penrod were often overawed by the piety of their boy and girlscouts.But James green, well he was an exception.He went to mass it is true, but to Holy Communion ------- never.

"Say Angeline" Penrod remarked to Miss nichee that morning."Though all of our force have got more praying endpiety in their little fingers than you or I have in our prayer books and whole bodies put together, there's something wrong with Green.Late every week day for early Mass, comes to the Late Comer Mass and yet never recieves Our Blessed Lord.Did you notice him last Sunday after Holy Communion.He left before Mass was finished.I don't like him.The others who rei recieved our Blessed Lord their faces were as brightas ---as---as anything,and I watched them till they looked like those little child saints in a picture.But James Green, he never recieved Holy Communion when he even was in general viviana camp.Here we are on a perilous adventure and still he does not go.I'm either afraid he's loony or an evil character. I'm going to watch him."

One of the first friendly secrets that Penrod imparted to all his friends who knew nothing of it was the true story of his own near experience at the downfall and destruction of Abbicamn.They all took as much interest in Penrods descriptions as they would like to tell stories themselves,and

yet they would speak up ok so lovingly of Our Saviour in the Blessed Sacrament that Penrod felt his he heart burning within him.

However on this morning two things came to pass both bearing closely upon the fates and fortunes of our brave little boy and girlscout comrades. The camp fires were burning it was just an hour after breakfast, and all the office rs had collected in the yards of the Orphan home,Minnie the elder sister of Jean was sitting by a camp fire and she was busy peeling pop potatoes, while Jean stood near her critically examining into the merits of a prayer book.

Just as Penrod had said the last words about the disasters, a brisk gallop from a horseback heard coming down the road, and a horseman moved into sight.

The girlscouts officers were at attention at on ce and awaited the new comer who was dressed a as a forest ranger.

To the surprise of all it wa was George Gingigore. Howie got through to come back to them the girls could not tell.

"Hail girls."said Mr Gingigore, as he dismounted and saluted."How are you all and how come you to be here?"

They were sure glad to see him, and after all the hearty greeting he said:

"We should be all happy to night.I and my followers have succeeded well to day in my spying matters, and best of all I have a letter from Jack Evans."

"Hurrah."cried Penrod, and all the others joined in, and they all danced about his to no small incon i convinience of that gentleman, who could so easily disguise himself to make himself look like any Glandelinian general he wished to impersonate."Better from Jack Evans.Why how's general Evans, how's Radcliffe.Tell us all about it Mr Gingigore."

Gertrude Angeline, was just as demonstrative as the rest, and was very anxious to hear the contents of the letter.

"Sit down every bo e around the big camp fire"he said"And we'll all soon know what the great man has written."

Mr Gingigore, be it observed, never opened the letters fro: any one but unless his list here were beside him.It was a delicate attention, and a very small thing it may be but take the small thingsout of life a and we have little left but murders and so forth.

"Well here goes"""said Gingigore, as he opened the envelo e and spread out the letter."

"EMPEROR VIVIANS

"MILITARY HEADQUARTERS"

EVANGS,LINE ST CLAIRE TOWN.

TO MR GINGIGORE.
DEAR SIR!

At he got that far there was the sound of another horseman coming up coming closer,so swift, as tocause them to start violently, and Gertrude Angeline to jump with alacrity from the stump she was sitting on, here inter rupting the reading.The man rode up and saluted.He seemed to be a short dark ill featured man with bristling dark or black whiskers, and he dismounted from his horse.For a moment the girls and Mr Gingigore gazed at the stranger in some perplexity.

"It: Mr George Hartnett."said the man: I' "I've tried to locate you people and have finally succeeded."

"Oh pardon me Mr Hartnett"cried Gertrude, advancing and shaking his vi hey visitors hand."I've never seen your face though.Sit down."

"Well"The man made answer, as he seated himself "I can't blame you for not knowing me, for al o although I have called on you girls a score of times I have always missed you."

"I thank you sir for your goodness."cried the girls"and especially for the interest which I understand you take in the service of our country."

"Won't you and Mr Gingigore here take breakfast with us!" asked Angeline Vickers."

"Thanks with pleasure.By the way have you heard of the forest fires lately.You can't imagine wi what it is.Also have you girls heard from the Vivian Girls lately.I have taken a mighty great interest in them.I met them once or twice and es convinced that they'll one day make their mark."

"No but we have just received a letter from their friend and guardian Jack Evans"said Gingigore visibly pleased-- as who man would not be--es pecially at the praises of his dearest friends "And perhaps if I r ad it to you sir, yo may not take it amiss."

"My dear sir." said Mr Hartnett with much warmth"You are too good I shall be delighted.Jean you little rouge." he said to the nearest girlscout"Come here and look at what I brought."

The girl obeyed, while the others stared curiously on Mr Hartnett.It is said that little children have an instinctive knowledge of people.Whether this be true or not, but it is certain that these scouts had decided views relative to this ne smiled Mr Hartnett, and they knew he was a man by no means favorable to the Glandelinians.He was wanted, and a hundred million dollar reward was offered for his capture. Yes try and get him.

"Here's the way the letter runs,"said Mr Gingigore,

"My dear Mr Gink Gingore-

"I am so glad to learn that you are safe and have accomplished your missions with great success.I am going away from Emperor Vivians scene, as I am on a special ness message myself.Try and locate General Morgue a and also W.Schloeder if possible and come too.For I have also a secret I wish to write to you."

"Malice what's this:" said Mr Gingigore kno knitting his brows, and reading what followed to himself.He did not notice that Mr Hartnetts face changed color, and that his right hand was quickly thrust into his belt,and remained there.For a moment there was silence,an awful silence--had the hunch known the thoughts of their visitors.

"Why this is strange."said Mr Gingigore at length."He says, that he is going to try and find the Vivian Girls.They have been missing, and he has sworn he'll not give up untill he finds them.They are stolen."

"What the Vivian Girls!" asked Martn ent."

"Yes, gone for four days already."

Mr Hartnetts hand returned from his pockets, and with a forced laugh he said:

"Oh indeed.Perhaps it'll turn out to be a regular adventure for them."

At the harsh merriment of the visitor, the girls could not refrain from shuddering.

"Well it's growing on late." resumed Hartnett, hastily drinking his coffee, "And I'd better be going."

Awkwardly enough he took his de a departure.

"Penrod"said Gertrude as the man rode away"I know that man.Some how I fear, he'll become dangerous.You know he heard the Vivian girls are gone."

"You think so."said Mr Gingigore, in surprise."

"I do indeed."

"He is a bad bad man to the Glandelinians,"said Angeline-Vickers."He'll do anything to get even with them.He is no soldier only a citizen from some town. He lost his family in the flood, and the Vivian Girls have befriended him."

Their suspicions would have been confirmed had they seen Monte Hartnett on his horse a few hundred yards from their camp, his clenched fists raised in imprecation, and maledictions in the direction of Glandelinia. About midnight, Hartnett, issued from his lonely hiding place, and set off rapidly toward the flood."Stanley sure feared this man as it may some day be shown.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN.

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ANOTHER TRAGEDY.
SORROWFUL RESULTS. DEATH FOLLOWS.
DE JANNIE'S STORY OF THE ARKANSAN DISASTER, AS SHE SAYS SHE SAW IT .....

On this day Gertrude Angeline was determined to take even chances with the distant forest fires and other perils to go our foraging.The supplies of the camp was becoming low, and that is saying a great deal.Luckily it was a good day there was a strong southwest wind blowing, and any one who desired were allowed to join the hunting scout party.Angeline Nichos was selected as leader, as she knew how to guide more than any one else did. For crackshots the eyes of every girl and boy and other scouts were good and their nerves were strong. They went out, but did deployed in line. They decided to try and hunt by the flood as ducks and wild geese flooding from fires may be on the ravaging waters.and they were not mistaken either.. Penrod brought down the first duck, but he did not dodge quick enough and it in falling struck him resoundly on his head, and destroyed his hat to his mortification.The othe others tramped through the woods which were far from the forest fires, stealing cautiously up to game under cover of tree and shrud, and bush, and creeping along the margin of the flood, and roaring flooded lakes near by, and Penrod within three minutes had three ducks in his hunting play pouch, and he was gleeful indeed.James Green did good work too, but he had the first luck like Penrod, only a little better two ducks and a ge goose shot at the same time, fell upon his head one after the other before he could even get out of the way.Luckily no one was around at the time to hear the "Prayer"he uttered.

It was a mid morning, cold hot, blustering, gloomy, smoky at some places, and how they could hunt is because so may many birds were fleeing from the red plague.

"Well I'd be glad it if was only cool for a change Gertrude"said Penrod when he met her."A boyscout enjoys walking more in that kind of weather. Of course this is August, and early too, but Heavens I've never seen the hottest summer in my life as hot as these days are.I feel more like going under under cold water."

"So do I said "said Gertrude."I'd be glad too if it was cloudy and going to rain than with all this smoke in the sky always as dark as snow or rain clouds.Anyway we are not in any danger of spoiling our complexions."

"Every kind of weather is good, if it is not for forest fires."said James Green.

"Yes I suppose even hot weather." retorted Jean."Dear me, and there's been such a heap of people drowned because of this hot weather, its strange no one seems to know how to swim."

"Yes"said James his eyes twinkling." and on the same principal I reckon this coming winter if the great number of refugees do not find shelter there will be heaps of folks frozen to death, because there'll be nobody be able to find means to keep themselves warm, and we'll have lots of crimes then to fasten on "dear old haughty" Glandelinins.."

"Suddenly James Green stopped walking.

"What's the matter?" asked Jack Sanders who was immediately behind him.

"I thought I saw Glandelinians ,Jack."I believed I saw one of them hold ing the muzzle pointing where your brains are supposed to be.Here now you move nearest us deploy the way I do, and should the skunks open fire on us they may bring down birds also for us, but they won't hurt any of us."

"Pshaw."growled Jack, as he and som of the others complied with the request."I thought this neighborhood was clear of Glandelinians."

"Just the opposite, the more you'll learn to knowabout these Glandelinians, the more respect you'll have for them.They'll shoot us girls and boys down as well as any soldier, believe it or not.The children who know how to use a gun is the equal to the worst Glandelinia s glandelinians. We too have dreadful weapons and one llittle load in it will carry death to thebravest Glandelinians.But other unfortunate children who do not know how to defend themselves are massacred.No wonder we all try to get as many kid kids into our army asscouts so they'll be able to defend themselves."

James Green spoke earnestly, he was fire in the cause whether he was good or not in some of his actions, and he knew the foe, therefore his words made an impression on all.

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At this point the conversation was cut short by the appearance of a rabbit fleeing out of the smoke curtained woods, which James himself dispatched with a skilful shot.Because of creatures fleeing from the distant fire game was plentiful that day, which gave them reason to suspect Glandelinians were out hunting too, and even Gertrude had succeeded in bagging her her first wild turkey but she refused to shoot a rabbit, neither a quail would they harm ducks being the main game. Thus wandering along the banks of the flood and following the direction of the flood,, and also keeping an lookout for Glandelinians, who however if they were around did not molest them, they stopped shortly an hour afterwards at the skits of the woodland which weeps along perhaps for many countless miles on this side of the land, and partook of a homely but hearty repast.Cold beans, ham bread, crackers, and fruits and milk disappeared with wonderous rapidity, and there were about fifty too on this hunting trip.

"It's too bad we did not bring much more,"said Gertrude, who was stillll hungry.

All echoed this sentiment.

"I tell you what we can do." said Penrod "let's fix up a number of ducks for we have so many per scout already.James even has a full bag full he is the better hunter even though a moment ago a wild turkey shot by him found a landing place on my head.We can build a fire easily, and I'll do the cooking."

"the suggestion was favorably recieved, and in a trice, Penrod was preparing the birds, James was lighting the fire, while the others collected sticks and dry leaves.Gertrude however also advised that as soon as all was fini fin finished the fire should be put out for fear of stra startin t starting a new forest fire and in a wrong location.They had hardly put themselves to their interesting task when the air began to become clearer and evidently a few drops of rain began to fall.

"Hurrah." cried Mary Stanck, jumping to her feet, and dancing about the fire,"Well have a good rain now."

"Hurrah "shouted the others, and all began dancing about the fire and playing they were Indians on the war path. There is an inexpressible charm in the rain that was starting to fall, especially when it was needed on such a time as this.Round and round the camp fire the girls and boys danced, faster, and faster, while more briskly fell the rain.Their dancing might have been prolonged indefinitely had not the embers given warning that more fuel was needed, and also that it seemed some protection from the rain should it come heavy.The rain was caused by the heat of the fires surging over the floods, but unfortunately the storm which was severe was not raging in their locality and it soon stopped.

"Hold on everybody"cried Gertrude, who had just executed a hand spring "we want more wood, James, get your ducks ready"and off they danced in different directions..By the time the birds were cooked, the rain which had fallen enough to soak them and the ground gradually stopped.

"We'll have plenty of time todry ourselves in this heat." remarked James as they began to eat.

"How's that ?" asked Jack.

"These hot winds will dry almost anything in a hurry."

"Hurrah for the rain if it would only fall some more"shouted Gertrude with vfresh exhilaration.

"I wonder if we'll ever have another meal as jolly as this!" queried Harry Thomas.

"We might!" this from James Green.

"I say" said Gertrude, who was too healthy a girlscout to indulge in conjecture,"I'd rather be here in camps eating like we and the soldiers do than at a turkey and ice cream dinner at Christmas in the most stylish house."

S No one seemed inclined to gainsay this statement, and a few minutes later having done full justice to their fare, they resumed their hunt, each one peering in every direction to discover more game, and to look out for Glandelinians."

As they pushed along, Gertrude noticed that Jean who was lightly clad shivered occassionally even though the weather was so hot and sultry.

"Say Jean, you seem to be in a fever."

"No, no I have not any fever." remonstrated Jean."but I apprehend some hidden danger."

At this Gertrude still believing she was in a fever, whipped off her uniform jacket before Jean could protest, and with her grandest air of aunt authority made her friend put it on.Then clad in her own sailor skirt and uniform dresses the sturdy young girlscout leader trotted on as comfortable as though it was not a very hot dark day.They were about threeee miles to the southwest of the Orphan Home, when to their great joy

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they came upon a portion of the forests and landscape where the air was more clear and thinner of smoke.On they ran with more energy, but come coming to a road they discovered the forms of many horses hoofbeats, and this brought them all to a sudden halt. some of the prints were even confused with the impress of wheels, and even the forms of countless numbers of shoes as far as it extended.It also may be observed that the road ran through the woods,and first skirted the shore of the flood, and a long strip of land known as the valley which stretching on either side of a railroad track,which now to say no trains were running on, changed gradually into the wild and dark forbidding Red Riding Hood Woods far beyond. Gertrude wishing to know what was wrong and why there were so many t forms of feet on the road was for following the road,, Angeline richest for moving through the valley,, while James Green favored taking to the woods.By way of compromise they agreed to scatter, each following their own plan.Fifty were to be in each party, and there were two hundred and fifty altogether, the other five hundred having remained in the camp.So Gertrude followed by her own so selected party, trotted along briskly for some ten and fifteen minutes, when James out of breath, begged Gertrude to slacken t her pace. he did so. so. Gertrude paused and suddenly from right beneath her feet a rabbit which had been concealed in the brushwood scamped scampered forthe.

"Bang went James gun, the rabbit fell dead.

"Ain't I getting to be a great hunter,"roared James in great admiration at himself.."Wait one moment please ,till I load up once again.Here goes for a deadner,"and he loaded or inserted his loaded shell."There"s five fingers of buck shot in that--enough to kill six six rabbits standing in a row."

"I say Gertrude."said Jack Saunders."It's getting dark."

"So it is indeed." assented Gertrude, taking out her watch."Why halloa it's only eleven thirty oclock.I believe we have enough game now and we'd better be starting for camp so we can bring in our provisions.Come on we must gather the rest of the Company."

Vigorious shouting, and signalling soon brought the rest as far as known to their side, but shout as they might, Jean Saunders, and three other girls, and six boys gave no sign of being within ear shot.Some minutes passed--- darkness was coming on apace, as if it was reallly going to storm.The whole force began to betray signs of nervousness,and Gertrude caught the feelings Suddenly it was an awkward circumstance as well as accidental--all ceased shouting, and the hushof the coming forenoon seemed to take grim possession of all all.Gertrude was the first to break the silence.

"Well I guess they're lost, and we'd better take a trot into the woods and search for them." he observed. she observed.

"Isn't it gloomy and silent under those trees." said Jack, as they picked their way among the trees."

"Isn't it though Jack"said another boy."I feel as though I had the night mare."

As they plunged into the smoky woods, they became more and more solemn their shoutings had ceased entirely, and indeed no one hardly spoke above a whisper.The gloom and grim silence of the darkened forests of great pines and the still ness of the air, had cast a strange spell upon them.suddenly they heard firing, and a sound also that man made their blood run cold;it was a groan.

"Good God." whispered Gertrude, crossing herself,(the rest did the same) "But that sounded like James voice.Come on every one softly.Listen there is lots of firing.Don't step on any twigs, but pick your steps.I'm afraid the other party is in danger and I have reasons you don't know of." and Gertrude as she moved forward, followed trenblingly by the whole force held her rifle at full cock.The sound of firing grew louder, and even a scream was heard.Gertrudes face became pale as death, but her whole expression was none the less determined.Bending low, and partially protected from view by the thick vines and high weeds and sun flower stalks, they moved on in a line till Gertrude paused, her pretty face alive with horror, staggered, but recovered herself and raised her hand to the others in warning. Judge of their terror as in obedience to Gertrudes sudden gesture, they ranged themselves in line and gazed on the sight that had so stricken them. Two boys lay on the ground, and in a pool of blood contrasting so frightfully with the green carpet of the ground lay Jane Melfort.Jean and sixteen others were standing kneeling behind stumps answering the fire of Glandelinians beyond.As Gertrude gazed, her expression changed from horror to determination.Making a slight gesture to her companions to follow she drew up her gun, and the whole troop suddenly rushed from their hiding place.The majority of the enemy got

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away but their captian a stained dungy dagger in his hand did not escape, and Gertrude and others covered him and cried-

"Halt, drop that knife, and throw your guns away or we'll fire."

"So sudden and severe came the shock upon the Glandelinian captian, that as he saw himself covered, and his comrades fleeing for safty his nerve less fig fingers let the dagger fall to the earth, while his face assumed the look of the most extreme terror.

"Raise your hands above your head pussy cat, at once or I fire."continued Gertrude, in the same tones.The guns of the others and Gertrudes all directed at the mans breast, were as steady in the hands of the brave children as though they were held by statuus, and the determined faces of the girls and boys utterly cowed the man."Up his hands went without delay.The others of the party had routed and shot down a number of the Glandelinians giving no quarter, and as they began to come back, Gertrude said to her prisoner;

"Now catty, take that path right behind you, and go on at a good steady march, till you come to the road leading to St Gertrudes Orphanage, and I give you my sure word, cross my heart on it, and hope to die, that if you dare to attempt to move from the path, put down your hands, or even make a motion as if you were going to turn around, I will shoot you at once.Turn round now you assassin of little girls and boys, and walk straight on."

"Take down that gun." chattered the Glandelinian"It might go off accidentally."

"Accidentally or not, it will surely go off if you don't do what I tell you.For what you and your followers have done, why should I worry what the gun might do.Forward march."

Completely mastered, the Glandelinisofficer turned and moved forward keeping Gertrudes directions to the letter indeed.Though only a little girl as Gertrude was, the Glandelinian officer percieved that it was the same as if he was dealing with a dangerous man,as far as ther determination went and a very determined"man" at that.As Gertrude proceeded by her captive moved tward the camp, the others raised the dead and wounded scouts, and tenderly bore them tward the Home.It was intirely in vain to attempt to describe perfectly the state of Gertrudes mind as she tramped steadily on after the murderer.Her imaginations never wandered, her whole being was fused into the determination to bring that man to justice.The road was lonely and deserted, not a sound smote the strange stillness the minutes passed on into the quarters, but the steady tramp of captor,and captive beat equal and silent upon the ground, the heavy gun covered its object as though supported by muscles of steel, sensation, fear of his escape, hope---all were kept in obeyance to Gertrudes present purpose, why she even made him keep time with her foot steps, promising to even shoot if he ever once got out of step even. The blinding heat of the weather dimmed not her eyes.Whether it was a minute an hour, or a day that the stern tramp might have even lasted, Gertrude would not have cared.The Glandelinian tried to make excuses, to talk but all she would answer was"shut up.".Her senses consentrated to a single purpose were dead to all else till the camp was reached, and crowds of boys and girlscouts came thronging around her and her prisoner. Then speech and her normal activities returned.

"Confine this man."she said."He is a murderer and I'll hold any one responsible for his or her life who lets him escape.He's to be tried."

Soldiers however came up, strong hands were laid upon the Glandelinian, and Gertrude walked away.The prisoner was deprived of his trousers, and confined under guard in a tent.

All the boys who were brought in were found dead, and the girls too, Jane being the only survivor and Jean had been knocked unconscious when a minnie ball glanced off her head, when she was fighting the murderers. The Military doctor, Jones was valled, and his face was graver than usual as he examined the two surviving patients.

"Both are critical cases, Miss Aronburg, and indeed I have more fears for that brave little Jean, than for the other.Poor Janes wounds are not necessarily fatal, a good constitution and great care will surely bring her through.But little Jean is in great danger, in danger of something worse than death.The strain upon her mind, in firing back upon the attackers, the force of her emotions, the terrible ordeal to which her remarkable will power has subjected her into a high fever with the results of her head wound.He She may recover, but even then her mind may be impaired, or her nerves shattered for life."

"God forbid." said Gertrude."Do you consider it advisable to write to Jennie gurner about this affair."?

"Well it would be no harm to tell her, but as to notifying anyone else, there's time enough.We had better wait thourh to see how the cases of both turns out.What are you going to do with the prisoner?"

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"Have him for the girls and boys to target practice on." said Gertrude with a sneer.

Both little girl sufferers, who had been in this condition because of their defense of their comrades were in a private room of the Home itself, for they had not been placed in the common ward of the infirmary. Jane Melfort, a weak, pale, hardly conscious, was lying on her left side, which had not been injured by the bullet wound--now and then giving forth a feeble moan of pain. In another part of the room lay Jean, her head covered with a b n bandage, and her cheeks flushed with fever, her eyes bright and wild. Angeline Richee, and Jeans sister sat on each side of her, and occassionaly bathed her forehead. Whenever the doctor approached, Jean would shiver with horror and rage, and would beg Angeline Richee, whom she called by the name of her brother, to take those"Glandelinian soldiers"away, for they were going to com itt a big massacre of children, there was blood upon their hands and uniforms----could they not see the blood,,---there was murder and hatred of children in their every look. About two oclock in the afternoon, when the whole troop of girl and boyscouts had been housed in their respective rooms and tents to be out of the heat, Dolores Mic-Wellester, and her sister, Jeans dear friend, entered the room, and strangely enough Jean, recognized them at once.

"Oh Dolores, and Angeline Jennings." she cried,"Will you two girls help me please?"

"Certainly my dear friend." said Angeline, grasping the fevered hands entreatingly extended to her,"What can I and Dolores do for you?"

"Come close to me." said Jean."I don't want them to hear it, especially those sitting at my bed. They are all enemies, I hate them, all, they have me prisoner, they're dirty glandelinians. See how they are all watching me accusing me of steal stealing their very country from heaven to put in my pocket"she cried ,pointing around the room, and especially spitefully at Gertrude."They are all in the crime. See that one"!pointing at Gertrude"That skunk of a glandelinian destroyed Abbieann, and flooded Calverinia. Stoop down Angeline, I want to whisper to you."

The girlscout officer bent low.

"They all want to kill Jane, and they've tied me down, even posioned me so I can't help her, wiped out my girls and boys, but you'll take my place and go on with the defense won't you."

"Yes,yes, Jean rely upon it, no one shall touch a hair of her head."

"And Angeline, "I'm going to make my first Holy Communion to morrow(She made it four years ago)."To morrow is Christmas you know, and I've waited, waited -oh so long. Look see, there's six feet of snow on the ground. Ain't it grand."

"To morrow ain't Christ as Jean."

The fevered patient took no notice of this answer.

"There she is lying on that bed."

Jean raised herself and looked in the direction indicated. Then a strange perplexed expression came upon her, as though the true ideas as what had so lately happened were striving vainly to square with the wild vagaries of her fever. Exhausted by the mental conflict, she fell back, and still holding tightly Angeline's hand, closed her eyes. Tward five oclock that night, as the three were still sitting beside the other sufferer, Jane Melfort recovered from her stupor.

"Miss Richee"he said."How did Jean come to be so sick."

Angeline Richeee told her the story first of Gertrudes heroism, and of how she herself(Jean)was wounded and of the high fever which the exposure and mental strain and the peril she had faced,, had brought on her. Janes eyes filled with tears of gratitude to her tw two brave friends, but on hearing of J eans great danger, her face grew troubled.

"Joan too is a real heroine." she said,"and I and the whole force must and shall pray for her night and day, that she may get well."

By the shock of this new disaster all the girl and boyscouts were unusually subdued. Gathered together in knots, Gertrudes bravery, and the fate of twenty of their number and of Jeans condition were the subject of universal panegyric, while even all the most flighty, were concerned at Jeans danger. All that time and later tward evening, even Gertrude, the two Jennings sisters, and other girlscout leaders worecat the side of their two friends. Nothing could exceed their devotednesss. Over and anon Janes face quivered with intense pain, but there constantly de dwelt upon it a gentle ex ression of resignation. The doctor however was satisfied with her symptons. Jeans case and the case of another wounded scout, a boy who had been brought in seemed to trouble him more .....

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Tward two thirty oclockin the afternoon, another young girl dressed in a long thin purple coat, and yellow inside dress, and a "Henry Eight" fashion of hat, entered, and kneeling beside Jane, covered her face with kisses.

"Don't be troubled Hettie." said Jane, holding her friends hand tenderly as she spoke."Ida not sufferingmuch, and my wound is not serious, indeed I'll be all right the doctor says in a few days. Jean isin danger, and you must pray for her."

Hettie Kauffmann who was not a girlscout, though in the same camp, but despite her young years, as famous and daring as a spy as violet, and her sisters, and who had heard the whole story of the fatal adventure with the Glandelinian foraging parties, presently went over to poor Jean. The poor wounded child, who had been tossing restlessly all the time since she had been brought in, started up on seeing her, h r face softened with joy....."

"Oh Dear Blessed Mother"she cried,"Why didn't you come to me before? Come to me l please Dear Mother of our Blessed Lord, and stay with me always." She tenderly embrace Hettie Kauffmann,"The Blessed Mother, poor child, was not there, but in heaven."Dear Mother of God,"she continued,"There's something I am terribly anxious to tell you. I wish to hard to make my First Holy Communion to Morrow which is Christmas, and all these dirty wicked Glande linians in this room wish to prevent me. I ask you please pray for me, that I may be able to do it in spite of them. I've worked hard to be able to recieve ,and its partly or all on your account dear Mother of Our Dearest Blessed Lord Lord. I know that you have been my Mother always, have always prayed to Him for me ever since you ascended into heaven on your Assumption Day, and I remember what you said to me just before Our Dear Blessed Lord died on the Cross. I was there and saw it all, and it was terrible. All these in the room are His enemies, th y they are all Glandelinian generals, see(pointing to Gertrude) there is general John Manley, he wants to posion me and strap me down on the stakes so I can't make my First Holy Communion. But he can't prevent me. I'm used to all these wicked glandelinians now. I'm glad I'm a girlscout. No one can fool me, I know I'm a girlscout, why I'm one of the Vivian Girls myself, I'm Violet, and its just as easy to keep from sin as it is for the good saints themselves. If I had the chance and had a gun I'd shoot everybody in this room, I'd shoot---I'd shoot, ---shoot" and Jean ended this strange monologue with jumping up into a sitting posture and drawing to draw a supposed gun from her side, while her eyes flashed in fury. About suncdown, she changed for the worse. She shrieked and cried, and screamed, and crused at every one in the room thinking they were Glandelinians, and could hardly be held down on her bed. She struck Gertrude once and tried to scratch her eyes out. she was wild as a pthanter. Tward seven oclock the doctor was hastily summoned.

"If her delirium las ts aven three more hours, she'll die." he said.

"On hearing this, Gertrude, called Angeline Richee, and all the other girlscout officers to Joans besideside.

"Girls I want you all to join me in prayer."cshe said."I have made God a promise which I know is right, to risk an engagement with the enemy if He cures Jean. It may not be His holy will to do so, but let us unite in prayer."

"Led by Jane, in low feverent tones, all recited decade after decade of the Rosary to the Blessed Mother, whole while Jean hovering between life and death, was soothed and restrained in her wild paroxysms by the kind hands of powerful Hettie Kauffmann, and the doctor.

It was ten oclock that night. Jeans ravings had gradually lessened. As the hours wore on she became more and more quiettt quiet, till at length, for the first time since the eventful morning, she fell asleep.

"Her life is safe for sure." said the doctor,"but the danger to her mind is not yet over. All now lies in the hands of God."

"We shall never give up praying." said Jane Melfort."Come on everyone "she continued, addressing all who were at the time in the room."Let us take y heaven by storm....."

!Night wanted into midnight, midnight turned into sunrise(Ifthere was any) and stilll Jean slumbered. Standing about her bead, the doctor, Hettie Kauffmann, and many other girlscouts and boys too anxiously watched the face of the sleeper. A little before breakfast time, probably seven thirty Jeans breathing began to change into norm l normal. Then at eight oclock she suddenly opened her eyes, as all stood with bated breath, awaiting to hear her first words. For a few minutes she gazed about vacantly as if she did not know what to make of herposition, then she stretchnd out her arms, gave a low sigh, and said;

"Reading Liz Lizards, but for some reason or other I feel as if I'm broken up. How did I come to be here. I was out hunting this morning."!

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At this there was indeed a smile upon every face, for the tone was so natural like Jeans.

"Jean dearest, don't you know me?" cried Angeline Richee, and Gertrude together unabl unable to restrain themselves.

"I certainly do.Why shouldn't I I am in bed here in a room with all of you girlscout leaders.But just the same what is the matter with all of you here? .I' not a ghost am I or a sprite.?"

"No."

"Then why are you all staring at me so.And where and what part of the hone am I and what 's the matter with my head?"It feels as light as a empty barroom."

"Do you know Jean."said Hettie Kauffmann-"That you've been very sick for over thirty six hours?Very sick indeed."

"I can't remember being sick," but it seemed to be anyhow as if I was in the hands of the foe, and general Manley was glaring at me while I lay on the floor.I must have had a horrible dream.Then I thought I saw the Blessed Virgin standing near me to protect me.Then"she continuedmorely slowly as she passed her hand over her brow."We were out hunting for forage for the camp ,and we were attacked by a party of Clandelinians who wanted to take our forage from us, and ---what---what did we do anyhow."Did I get shot and fall down"And did the Clan e Clandelinians win the fight and try tomurder me and my whole command?and h what's become of Jane."?

"Here I am Jean"Xried Jane who was sitting up in her bed,and litterally brimming over with joy.I'm all right, and so are you but eighteen of us are gone, and thirty wounded six fatally.Gertrude captured the man who was trying to kill you.Don't you rem rame her?"

"Did you?" HJean inquired ov of Gertrude.

"That is just what I did do!" said Gertrude hotly,"and he's going to pay dearly for my loss.

"Listen "said Angeline Richee, and with no little astonishment, Jean heard all what Gertrude and her followers had down done, killed sixteen Clandelinians mowed a hundred of them down routed, the rest and captured their chief officer bring him a prisoner to the camp.

"Well dear me"she said at the conclusion."It may be all too true,, but there isone question I would like to ask?..?"?

"Ask away."said Angeline Richee cheerfully.

"Well I'd like to know if I was there, when she did all that?"

All laughed at the serio comic way in which Jean put this query.In truth her question under the circumstances, was not extroadinary, nor was Jean the only one who had been puzzled by the mystery of her own identity.

" Jean"said Hettie Kormmann when the invalid had heard a full account account of her recent doings"Do you know me now?"

"Yes,"she answered."You are the famous girlscpy Hettie Kormmann."

"While you were sick, you took me for the Blessed Mother, and indeed if the love and gratitude of the One who has not the Sacred Name of Holy Mother of Godcan do what she would if she were here now,I shall do it for her. .It was the Blessed Mother who so nicely pulled you through."

And sto oping down, Hettie tenderly kissed the little girl, as though indeed she were her sister."

"So say that all the rest of the girlscouts were happy isputting it very mildly, they were beside themselves.Their joy threatening to becomeuproarious, Gertrude very wisely ordered them to their respective dormitories to prepare for outside doings for the coming of day. The doctor declared that from on that time on Jeans improvement would be rapid, that she would soon outstrip Jane in the race for health, but six of the wounded boys evidently would not recover.Joanxwas allowed to get up, and as she hustled in andout of the infirmary, Jane still was forced to keep her bed, h er wound healing and her cheeks growing more normal every day.But the boys esp cially one whose name was James Green the former new careless boy from the effects of his wounds grew paler and thinner.

"I say Jimmy"said Gertrude sometime after breakfast."Why don't you eat your breakfast."

"I'm not hungry Miss Aronburg."

"But that is no way to do, eat anyhow, you are getting thinner all the time."

"I know it Miss Aronburg, and what is more, I believe I shall never recover again."

"Nonsense.Humbug. "said Gertrude sturdily, though her cheek blanched as she spoke.

"I surely do have to believe it Miss Aronburg,and I have full reason.The doctor looks troubled.He complains that my wounds won't heal.And Angeline Richee knows that I am in danger, for her face grows very sad when she thinks

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I am not looking at her or the others, and already to day when she had afterwards spoken to the doctor,I saw her cry.But don't think Miss Aronburg that I am so anxious to live,I'd rather die for my country, and her cause, and I am perfectly r eady.Shoul should I live Miss Aronburg, the day might come when I alwa s acting so foolish as I did, might come when I'll fall into some mortal sin.So far God has beeb been very good to me,He has given me a holy pious mother and father, and many very dear good friends."he pressed Gertrudes hand as he said this,"and by His Grace, has kept mecut of all dangerous occassions.So since I'm mortally wounded from that fight with the foe, I am happy at the thought of dying now."

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"Well James"said Gertrude, with the tears starting to her eyes."I know you are ready, though I did not believe so before,and I did always hope you was more good than we thought you to be.After all despite some of your careless ways you've got the makings of an angel, a saint,, but you surely musn't die I'd lose again one of our dearest boyscouts and friend and comrade."

"No,no, indeed you won't." answered James green earnestly."Please God I will be your best friend in another world.As now I'm mortally wounded, I'd be crioplied forlife anyway if I did live, and would be of little use here, but there I'm sure I could help you better.And Miss Aronburg I'm not sorry nor afraid to die, for another reason.I don't think I could ever be happy here below, and no telling what will happen yet.It's a terrible war you know.And I fret about things so easily.That's what made me so crazy or careless.The awful sights I have seen and these disasters worries me so that I did not know what careless actions I was doing half the time."

"Yes that's so." admitted Gertrude,"I noticed you did fret and worry a great deal.I'm not that way myself, though I feel rotten about it just the same."

At that moment Penrod who had been out scouting to see what caused the attack upon the girlscout force arived at the Home, bringi e bringing with him Catherine Estrabrook, and Mary glorinia. The three entered the sic room dancing with joy, but on seeing so many wounded ones laying in bed they sobered very much.

"This will make sixty of our number among the lost."said Penrod running his fingers through Jeans hair."Where's the prisoner Gertrude."

"In a isolated ten under guard.If he does escape we'll hound him down till we r take him."

James since he was wounded was somesk that he was absolu ly unable to leave his bed and he suffered much pain and discomfort.It was evident the boy was drawing nearer to the grave very rapidly, three of the six others had already died, and two were dying, but nevertheless their spirits were drawing closer to God.Even at times the light of sancit ity flickered upon the faces of the dying ones---such as a light as nothing but great purity and exalted holiness can enkindle..Nor was Gertrude idle.Many an hour she had spent with her wounded friends and comrades, speaking of the dearest of all miracles the miracle of Our Saviours ineffable love.She hadknelt ,long by Jeans bed when she had been so sick, praying formore love and grace, and all had been to remark that in stead of the dying saintly children, Gertrude was the head of them all.About half an hour before dinner Gertrude repaired tothe dormitory to past a last visit to James.The wan face of James almost glowed with joy at her approach.

"Oh Miss Aronburg."he said,"For I want to tell you the news.To morrow Gertrude, as you and your comrades again t go to Holy Communion, I shall be recieving the last sacraments of the Church."

Gertrude was not dismayed, she had long, but reluctantly expected this news.

"That is good"she said,"And I shall have them all offer their communions for you."

"Thank you Miss Aronburg'You are so good.But I wish now to tell you something else.Do you know why I expected to die since I was wounded in the fight, when Jeans squads were attacked."?

"Why!"asked Gertrude.

"Because when poor Jean and Jane were so badly wounded,I prayed and prayed hour after hour that if it might be God should take mylife and spai spare their's.I knew they would be of some good use in the army Gertrude, you surely did not want to lose them, Gertrude, But if I lived I'd be a life long cripple now and could do nto nothing.So Gertrude you must try to do what you can, and that you know is little enough."

Gertrude was weeping.

"For the sake of the cause of your Holy country, even though I'm a fordgner I'm very glad to die." persued James Green."Even at first when I prayed to God, I was a little afraid I'd be asking too much, but now since everything is O.HK I am ready to go."

Gertrude was still weeping.

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"Girls and all you rest"Said James, as manycrowded around his bed,"I know none of you around here, or the whole company will not refuse to give meup to our Blessed Lord.I'd be even dying for you all."

"No James dear, if we all loved you a thousand times more, He should have you, as he has our thirty others."

"I'm so glad comrade; to morrow I'll be in heaven.Would it not be nice to be in Heaven then."

Gertrude that sad morning had before breakfast returned from the Communo communion table, her heart beating in unision with the heart of her sweet Master, her radiant soul in the life giving embrace of her Spouse. How the minutes had flown, as she had knelt in earnest commune with her loving Jesus.She was like a real saint that morning, one of those little children whose soule are not only now the glory of the Sacret Heart, but doing duty in a dangerous territory for His and Her or their holy cause.How long, how fervent, had been always her preparation every day.Gertrude had instead of grumbling thanked God for the difficulties and delays bearing the crosses for his sake.Her soul, and the souls all of all girl and boy scouts had been constantly purpurified by trial.And nlw now even that the probation was worse, and the trial heavier, Gertrude even then felt she had been in God's hands.It was truly her days of days.

Now dinner was over, and she had seen that all of the six mortally wounded boys were dead, and all around were sobbing, while James was still the same, and now the doctors were believing he might survive after all.On the others who had died there was a sweep sweet expression ineffably sweet as though their bodies themselves had ferone lastmoment shared in the very happiness of the liberated spirits.

"My God." murmured Gertrude from the fulness of her heart, as she threw herself on her knees besides James,"Jimmy offered himself up for us.Let me have some others to take his place if it will be your will My God, to even spare him in spite as he should be but not my will but Thine be done."

Still the same morning.In a isolated tent, lighted by one close tent candle light, was the Glandelinian officer, a captian no doubt, worn no less by confinement than by anxiety.His face had grown darker, his fierce eyes had become bloodshot, while his smooth face, shaven closely imparted to his appearance an increase of loathesome mess.. Like a caged tiger or lion, he was fircely, dogedly pacing up and down the flood of the big tent. Occassionelly he would pause to catch theinterchaggage of greetings from the girl and boyscouts who happened to pass each other on the outside.They were words either about flood, fire, or what the enemy might be doing, morning words in themselves, but nevertheless showing how the scouts took the fortunes of the bloody war.The words few, the meaning simple indeed.Yet link them with the warning look in their faces,the suspicious eye, the look of apprehension-the pressure of the hand---and what a wealth of meaning there in in these expressions.It is also the full hearted utterances of human symnathy for allwho are facing all kinds of peril, the kindness of love raised in dead in to priceless value by what may be known.But i upon the prisoners heart long since attuned to the chords of anger and hatred, these words grated harshly.He knew their meaning.The scouts with whom he was a prisoner knew all about the progress of the war, and the probable cause of the disasters.Muttering maledictions upon the authors of these greetings and warning conversations-he resumed his weary tramp--not blessed by so small a gift as one kind thought.By and by a sentry came in.

"Well Mr Catt"said the marshall"Our Angelinians always called the Glandelinians cats, as they are called"christian dogs""Your games is about up now."

"What's happened now""

"The girlscouts you and your men, as well as your attacking parties fired upon died this morning excepting two.Many lots boys too.So to morrow you are to be removed to the House if you are not linched lynched before you get there."

The Glandelinian prisoner wiped his brow with a handkerchief, his breathing grew short, and an expression of abject fear came upon his face.

"What do the whole troop of girl and boyscouts, say or do about me?" he gasped.

"There is nothing at all said, or done just now, indeed they're all quiet, as if nothing happened.It is that way with them even following a loss, as if they didn't care.But their way of looks makes me absolutely sure that you won't getout of this tent more a foot or two before you are in the hands of a mighty mad crowd of girls and boys.They are more dangerous dangerous than th the men.But I guess we'll put over a game on them.

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Miss Aronburg tells me to take you off to morrow to a secluded room of the House right now, before any one nows what is going on."

"When are you taking me.'"

"I said now."

And he was brought.

Then the Marshall said when he came back about two hours later;

"I will have to move you again to morrow.It's likely they'll storm this building."

"When are you coming for me?"

"Oh about three in the morning.Anything I can do for you."?

"No I'll be ready for you when you come."

"Ain't you sorry you and you men killed so many of the girls and boys."?

"There was no answer from the Glandelinian prisoner.

"Won't you feel nervous to night, with the faces of those girls and boys before you in the dark."?

"See here now Marshall Godfrey." said the murderer,"Don't try that game on me.You needn't try to get me frightened.They are dead, and that's the end of it. Were they not firing on me and my men when we obse r observed them on a forage, and is it not the laws of the war.If they don't like it why don't they get out of camp and go home."

"You Glandelinians will massacre children any way and you know it." retorted the Marshall ."That's is why they are in the army.It's safer than at home.I sure do wish that you may come to realize what an awful thing you Glandelinians have done in this war, these disasters, and--- n and---"

"For the sake of Neptune, Leaping Lizards, great Guns and little fishes, LEAVE ME" Leave me alone.Leaping lizards, great Guns and little fishes, LEAVE ME" shrieked the Glandelinian prisoner his blood shot eyes growing hedious with rage,and his fingers working in important passion.

"One minute"said the marshall pr ducing a pair of handcuffs"Here's a a pair of bracelets, you might as well try on."

"Now ax"exclaimed the prisoner aghast.

"Why not?We don't trust you Glandelinians."

"Can't you wait till to morrow when you come for me?" he exclaimed drawing back.

"Come on.Now is the time."

"Marshall I've haven't asked you many favors since I've been h re. Please let me go free till we start to morrow.It's an ugly matter to have those affairs on, and I'd like to put them off as long as possible."

"So I see." said the officiel dubiously.

"Why I can't escape man.Look at those bare stone walls- -four ugly ugly walls, and a wretched barred window, and that long dismal roof than I can almost touch with my hand.

"Well they go on." snapped the Marshall.I'll leave them for you to admire.I'll not be responsible for you." and the handcuffs were on.Had he seen the lurking smile of triumph on the prisoners face, he might have seen to it that his feet were handcuffed too. The Glandelinian prisoner listened intently till the retreating footsteps had died away, then going to his coat he turned it inside out, and inserting his hand into a small opening concealed from others, drew forth a slender so steel saw like instrument. After pausing to assure himself that no one was near or outside in the hall he started working on the chain that held together the handcuffs, and in a short time had cut himself free by using strange as it would seem one of his feet to do the sawing with.Then he started working on the iron bards of the window.His first act he being a strong man was to cut through and then jerk from the window three iron bars.The work already done however had cost him two hours but he hoped to made a hole large enough t to enable him to escape.His instrument was small and in appearance unsuited for the a appearance.He put himself to work now with redoubled energy.Presently he had six of them out.Two hours and a half had passed, he had eight more to go before noon time.He grew nervous at the thought, and pushed his makeshift saw back an and forth with all his might.Suddenly there was a snap and cracking sound---the legs of the chair he was standing upon gave way beneath his weight, and in the agony of the moment the Glandelinian prisoner for got himself,lost his hold, and fell heavily to the floor with a resounding crash, where with a smothered curse still lingering on his lips he lay for some minutes stunned and helpless.But the sound of footsteps in the hall without soon brought him to his feet, and hearing some one coming to the door he with an agility wonderful under the circumstances, again climbed upone new chair, deftly replaced the bars, and the chair legs, then lightly dropped to the floor.

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"Who's in there"came a voice."

He tried to imitate the voice on of a little gir, and answered;

"It is I.I wanted to close the window to keep out the smoke outside and lost my footing and fell."

"Well for heavens sake"came back the answer"You don't have to bring down the whole place do you.Next time don't make so much noise."

The sound of footsteps retreating made his feel more at ease, and for the rest of the morning he passed the time brooding and sullen, now tra versing the room with hasty, impatient strides, now tossing restlessly upon the bed.Darkness came at length not that of night but from heavy smoke in the sky, and the sounds of wind had risen.He now believed his time had come. With the handcuffs off from his, and one in each hand he again mounted, and finally began to remove all the bars, and then then his escape was secured. Seeing no one down below he made a rope out of his blanket and beshests bedsheets, and then climbed down to the ground---then skulked through the deserted portion of the camp, across the railroad track, andout toard the great undulating deserted"parsely looking forests beyond. Whether he was going he knew not.It was too dark to find a road to rejoin his comrades.But as it did seem no sooner was he free of his room prisoner, than an overpowering sense of terror came upon him.Did he seek the dangerous looking "Parsely" look ing forest of his own choice?Why was it so hot, and why was there so much smoke, and wind.?Those were the questions he could not have answered, and he knew the winds were off the northeast. Indeed he seemed to be fleeing from some pursuing evil in red color.It might have been the fierce hot northeasterly winds, but there seemed nevertheless to ring in his ear a strange dying groan, there seemed to dance before him the visons of the children he had killed or allowed himsen to shoot down,and the wild angry jargon of many strange voices haunted him as though a horde of demons were at his heels.The very sky was as dark and threatening as if a tornado was coming, and strange weird shapes, clad in the sable vestre of the dead, seemed to spring up at every step berore before his startled eyes.Hour after hour passed away, and still hepushed wildly and wildly on, his face quivering with great fear of a coming doom, and with horror.With the first glare of fire, brightening the sky as red as White -Hot molten iron; his strength far supported by terror deserted him, and coming upon a big fir tree he threw himself beneath its shelter, and losing some of his terror, fell into a deep sleep....."!

Let us dear readers turn from this wicked wretch of a Glandelinian officer to the besides of the d e dead child scouts.Their delicate fra- gile hands clasped upon their bosoms and intertwined with the beads they had so loved in life, their faces calm and serene, and telling a tale of full beatitude i mortal they lay in their beds, surrounded by their mour mourning comrades shhdued into unwonted gentleness as they entered the chamber where death had dealth his strokes.It was a few minutes after dinner, and because of the necessity of it they were to buried as soon as possible. "Not"said Gertrude."that we should be tired of gazing upon the dear faces of our brave boy and girls, but because death in a camp and house where so many of their comrades are together would keep them in a sadness not suited to the time."

Penrod who had been at the scene of battle also spoke a few last words. He told them all of the Child Jesus, of His Hidden youth, and of His love for little children.Then he narrated, almost in the beautiful language of the gospel, the story of how Jesus, when He was asked by the very Apostles who was the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven took a child and set him in their midst. And he continued" when I consider what I have seen of this war ,when I recall how earnestly how devoutly every one ofour followers have sought to love and follow in full imitation the Sacred Heart of Jesus in spite of all the perils of this dreadful war, it seems to me that such brave little departed ones as these must have been Chosen by our Devine Lord to stand in the midst of His apostles..So what the enemy do to us and our Country, and its peoplewe are sure the enemy do to Him.""

Slowly and solemnly the whole troop, even the cavalry soldiers in ordered ranks devoutly reciting the rosary as they moved, marched from the House toard a impr vised trenched like graveyard, which lay half a mile or so near the "Parsley like woods..T As they neared the newly made grave, smoke began to come from the northeast in a foggy murk.Before the burial service had concluded the smoke became blinding in its intensity.Angeline Richee who was the leader and huide was alarmed.

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"Comrade s"she said in a loud voice, as the grave diggers were completing their work, and the whole column was about to start for the home,and the camp,,, "I warn you on the peril of your lives not to disperse on the road back. This promises that a forest fire is coming this way, and it promises to be a terrible fire, and were any of you to lose your way death in the flames or from suffocation from smoke might be the result. Form into ranks as before and I will put two boys and myself who knows the region best at the heads."

It was very h p happy of Angeline Richee to have taken this decisive measure.At first some of the youthful wiseacres grumbled, but when with difficulty all had arived safely at the camp it was generally acknowledged th at any other course might have led to all of them losing their life, as the fire came quick enough within sight, and the trees as far as eye could see burst into flame at once.

When the Glandelinian prisoner awoke he found it dark as night, and very hot, and rubbing his eyes, discovered with dismay that he was alone in the trackless forest in the face of an oncoming and fiercest and most dreadful fire hurricane that had ever come under his experience.The wind was tossing and writhing the trees in mortal agony of sound, and smoke was so thick he could not see before him.Starting to his feet he pushed vir visoriousl ahead.But whether was he going!He could not tell to save his life, indeed mortal eye were it ever so strong, and steady could not have pirced the smoke veil which stretched from earth to sky ,and the terrific winds which almost hurled him from his feet did not break the murk.And the winds were hot. Yet he must go on.To remain in the wods in such a roaring fire storm were to perish, the fire would soon come and he would be destroyed.As he started out upon this enforced tramp, leaves were being wrenched from some of the trees, and fires started to smoulder from the debi debris on the ground.But it was a tramp against death, the flames were coming in great leaps and rushes, and in waves, booming and roaring as if volcanic furnaces were active, and as the echoes of the horrid voices rang in his memory, he pushed on as though the whole demon world were at his back.Several minutes passed, and finally the wanderer came to a familiar tree.One look, and he perceived it was the very tree he had started from.

The wild horrid explosion of curses and blasphemies that burst from his lips fell idle upon the dreadful fire storm, but to his distorted fancy they seemed to be reached by a million hedious tongues of the wind; and more afrightened affi affrighted than ever as he saw a long wall of sky reaching flames swiftly approaching like the spread of birds on the wing, he set forward again from that direction.Travel had now become difficult because the wind would buffet him and drive him mad from the heat, kill his efforts to breathe, and almost scorche him.At times the gale would hulr hurl him to the ground, or threaten him with a falling tree, and on one occassion the storm hurled him into a dust pile and he was almost suffocated before he could free himself.As the dreadful flames still advanced nearer a feeling of languor stole upon him, his senses were losing their sharpness. The heat was torture now.This but terrified him all the more, for he knew that should he give way to this weakness before he reached a clearing,he was lost.On he went then, swifter, with the desperation of despair, on,on till thicker smoke closed about him, till the rude wind rose and howled and raged more fearfully after him, and threw itself irresistibly against him pelting him with flying branches and gravel, till the roar of the winds like voices of the night were changed into shrie s and groans and thundering sounds and dirges, on, on, till weary, frightened, hopeless he was suddenly struck down by a tree and hurled down in such a manner that the earth served as a pillow for his head. The feeling of languir had now become a great force, he would not rise again, let hell or heaven do its worst, he cared not.A vain there rang in his ears a wild shout as of demon triumph.Over head the flames stretched now, and despair forced him once more to open his eyes.Looking straight before him, he saw, could he be a line of children clad in white and passing him, one after the other looking down upon his face.His eyes started in terror, the fire came up like a storm wave all over, an expression of the damned came over his features as the flames singed him, and with one more dreadful outcry of frightful pain he was gone.

The evening following the passage of the dreadful fire storm, Gertrude with some of her followers decided to take the chances to brave the dreaded "Red Plague"to see if it had discreated the graves of her dead comrades.As they ap approached Penrod remarked;

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"Look we certainly did not put a black toubstone."by the graves."

"No"said Gertrude."That's wrong!"

"Thy there is one standing up right beside the grave of little Hattie Thines herself.It stands there all in black, like the ghost of an evil spirit in the glowing embers of the fire."

"If I were to see that on a moonlight night"observed Catherine Mstrabo rook "It would almost scare me to death."

Gertrude had just removed a layer of smouldering smoking debris from Hatties grave, revealed to the horror of all, the head of the Glandelinian officer, all and his body too horribly cremated, all horrible, ghastly, despairingly---resting on the grave ofone of the girlscouts he or any of his men had murdered.

"So2"said Gertrude."The fool escaped from his room and met a fate far worse than if he had remained with us.Well so it goes.Comes everybody.This is no sight for us."

The sad accouts of the company of girlscouts was forseen now.On the day Gertrude when she first had entered camp life, and made her First Holy Communion, she may be said to have made her first start in life.All the events of her experience dating from her first introduction to the reader--the great horrors of the war, hair breadth escapades, encounters with the foe and false friends alike--delays in her undertakings, disappointment, sorrow, disaster to herself and her followers, witnessing what her friends the Vivian Girls had gone through, partaking in disasters--all had conveyed and converged into the shaping and perfecting of her girlhood work into the moulding of a fierce but noble character.Of all girlscouts she was a leader of leaders, even greater than the Vivian Girls, and they had admired her for it.Gertrude had met with thousands of tragic experiences beyond the lot of most heroines and heroes of older years and condition in life, and she had borne them bravely, though she was more spiteful to the enemy than ever.She had suffered more over one bitter trial after another--none the less, trials that it was in part self imposed---and her acts of obadience had purified and strengthened her and made her one of the leaders she was.But she was still a little girl, had her girl---ish ways, yet the evil effects of the flood disasters upon her were not a bit effaced.About her there still lingered a touch of forwardness, and the shadow of a childish hatred tward all Glandelinians.The horrors of war and the method of Glandelinias way of carrying it on had woven itself into her very ex texture.Despite her character she felt somewhat"revengeful"She united her character or in her character great physical and gr at moral cou rage but because of her experience, the sweetness and gentleness which impart a lustre toperfect bravery seemed gone.She was a good girl, saintly but she was becoming a menance to Glandelinia. She was more dangerous than any on e of all the entire christian cause. Gertrude could never forget when poor Jennie Turner finally found for herself some way to reach the christian lines, as she had to go, and how shen she tapped at the door of Gertrudes room to exchange a few words of farewell.

"Ah Jennie"she had said"I'm glad you have come.You are always welcome,--- but now---So you're going!!!!"

"Yes Gertrude, and my going will be better for you as it'll bring you there sooner than if I stey here as I'll be able to find some means to bring you through.You know Gertrude I can hardly wait for the time, and its so hard to keep quiet for hours a day, when there's such a good chance for a little adventure sometimes, and than Gertrude I've got lots to do for the Vivian Girls you know, so I can't hold in.But I hate to leave you and the rest."

"Well Jennie I haven't complained have I?"

" No Gertrude.You are so patient and good, you bear up with so many trials without complaining.If I were in your place I'd raise a row, sure. You know how I cout up when my sister Francis was killed.For weeks I kept on hunting and killing Glandelinian officers."

"Well Jennie if I have been p t patient, I have had my reward, for I'm glad to tell you Jennie that while you was even here your improvement in military work and in application has been so steady that it could be noticed almost each day."

"Thank you Gertrude."said Jennie blushing."

And now she was gone, and how Gertrude did miss her.Like most generous, noble hearted girlscout s, she too was a hero worshipper, and from the time of the memorableinterview with her friend Jennie, Jennie had been her hero. Gertrude had been conquered by all her kind friends----a conquest it is scarcely necessary to say, no less creditable to the victor than to the vanquished.

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Jennie had issued from the interview with her friend Gertrude that latters girls best friend, and a faithful follower she had been even to Angeline Richee, Jean and her other friends.No wonder then, that her chubby cheeks colored with pleasure at these kindly words of commendation from Gertrude. "You remember Jennie"Gertrude had continued; fixing an earnest eye upon her little girl friend""ou remember that letter I sent to Violet, and her sisters nearly two years ago?"

"Yes.It was a most important one, and had a good deal to do for my o good commissioj commission.I shall never forget your favor Gertrude."

"Well Jennie I ventured on a bold prediction in it, and I have not been disappointed.I could not have exaggerated it."

Jennie had kissed Gertrude then.

But Gertrude now was in a misfortune..he had lost friends and comrades because of the enemy which she could ill spare. So many of her scouts outside of military work and battling the enemy, had a gentleness and sweetness of disposition which exacted exerted a marked influence upon Gertrude and all her followers for good.They were true friends, Gertrude needed such frends and so did Angeline Richee and others.Gertrude and Angeline Richee have helped each other too,but the others who had been killed a had an influnce that stepped in where the influence of others stopped short.They were in a manner a visible guardian angel to them.They were indeed like fairy princesses Gertrude had read about in books in her younger day.She got to thinking of her loss, and missed them very much.They were the nicest child scouts she had ever had. Penrod that afternoon had said to her-

"Ah Gertrude if you could find other girl and boy scouts like them!"

""ell Penrod, I'm young yet, the war is young yet, and in a country like ours there's no end of good boys and girls inthe world and in our armies, more are coming in so I hear every day, and we'll have the chances of finding them out.Maybe before we see another year there'll be lots of nice boy and girlscouts."

"We can all pray Gertrude for other such scouts, and for better luck."

"We will indeed Penrod."Then she smiled kind of mischieviously."I'll take the count.Angeline Richee has drawn the stake. The enemy will pa for our loss.I know where the camp of the foe is and I and my whole force is going to capture that camp and there'll be "No Quarter"she fairly hissed the last words.

On that very day throughout the country where christian armies could be found so many girl and boys were inl enlisting as scouts, and other military commissionsb that it indeed was unusual.This was the beginning of events which bore closely upon the conversation just recorded.Knowing nothing of this Gertrude and her whole force started a Perpetual Novena for the new scouts, and later on as we'll see her and their prayers were heard.

Winnie herself told Jean who was in bed yet from her injuries but allowed to be up ojce in a while a story of the Abbieann disaster as she said she saw it.She told it to her tward evening, when Gertrude and Angeline Richee and many others were gathered around also to hear. She said;

"In the history of earthquakes, floods, fires, eruptions of volcanoes and other worldy disasters nothing is more remarkable than the extreme number of them recorded since histories were first made out.But I do not believe they were as bad as what our Nation is suffering from the enemy. This may be partly accounted for by the fact that since the outbreak of this titanic war there was then only a small portion of the disasters than known.The vast increase in the number of these great war disasters in recent times last year before the outbreak at Abbieann is therefore undoubtedly due to the enlargement of the know knowledgement of the Glandelinian Engineer Commissions, and to the greater freedom of communication now subsist ing among mankind, and of the materials that the Glandelinians can use.I was a partial witness of the great Abbieann horror. And girls and Jean dear many of these war disasters of the past might have been as frequent through out the entire region as now, but the war correspondents, and newspaper men, and the historians and investigators of Abbieannia might have at first known nothing of their or occurance because the enemy breaking all kinds of communications has tried to hide all this. Even at the present time, a disaster might be happening somewhere in our states or in central Calverina of which we would never hear till three months have passed. It wouldn't do

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the enemy good of course to bring in disasters to parts of the country where he does not know for sure whether there are christian or heathens or not, or where the country is thinly inhabitated and where there are no large cities to be overthrown, even though the disasters could have happened there unheeded.The few inhabitants might be awe struck at the time, but should they recieve no personal harm the violence of the enemy made corruption and the intensity of their terror would soon fade from their memories. The explosio explosions that destroyed Abbiaann, and Gattanine are not only the most unusual on record but one of the most remarkable.I know that at first all newspapers and magazines printed the disaster as a great volcanic eruption from the plains north of Abbiaann, but whatever it really was it surely done the most unheard of thing in all history of disasters."

"What was that!" asked all the girls in one breath.

"It upheaved a district of several hundred square leagues, and caused the subsidance of a tract of land not less extensive, shivered like cracked glass five hundred miles of ground altering the whole water system, and the levels of the soil, and done other great things.It was a worse scene than the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and four others of those wicked cities.I did not see the explosions as it was at night, but I heard the , t them, and later I saw the flood come like a rolling sea.And while I lingered watching the progress of the flood men laid hold upon me and ordered me to escape for my life neither not to stay anywhere near, and that I should escape to the mountains which was the saftest place.I do so grieving for I feared my parents were drowned in Abbiaann. The flood overthrew many cities and swept over all the land and I saw nothing but smoke, fire, and water and floating buildings.

.Yet many think the disaster was a sudden volcanic eruption like that which destroyed in one night the cities of Pompeii, and others.But investigators could not find any evidence of clouds of ashes having ever been emitted from the explosion craters seen near there, though a vast tract of country comprising many cities and towns was violently shaken and overturned. Of the valleys watered by the Norma River, that of the Abbiaann region was the largest and the most populous.All the southern part of this valley,with its beautiful woods, its cultivated fields, and its broad river was said to have been obliterated by the flood.Upon this day the waters of this dreadful flood still continues to rise. Many who visited the region girls found the whole aspect of the district changed.The floodhas receded considerably up that far but came down here. The Abbiaann of that day has ceased to exist, and of its lower portions an immense sheet of water covered thespace which it once occupied.Only higher Abbiaann still is free of waters."Everything seemed to have been envolved in the cataclysm.Beyond this vast flood as we see some rivers have disappeared.The whole country within our view not touched by water is devastated by forest fires, and covered with smouldering ashes.

The record od this great disaster girls will be always from now on preserved not only by our own historians but by the living, and spoken traditions of all our later peoples, as well as latter historians who will always relate how the greatest flood in the world was formed during the terrible mysterious shocks of unusual "eruptions"as supposed, and how great cities and towns full of people were swallowed up in the great deluge or destroyed by fire of shocks. But girls even if popular traditions will be forgotten, and if the writing s of later authors would have been lost, the very aspect of the country will be always enough to show that it had suffered from the convulsion of a most terrible war on all record.As it was on the morrow of the catastrophes themselves, so it will always remain, with its devastated fields, burned remains of forests, its masses of lakes formed by flood, which may remain forever, the rough ravines made by the explosions north of Abbiaann, the unusual loss of life, and the vast lake Abbiaann which may cover the city forever.This seas of waters girls will ever evoke by its terrible origin,and its mysterious horrible aspect, the dolorous image of death and destruction."

"How far do you think these waters extend!" asked Gertrude.

"I can show you by this map." said Minnie."It was published by a paper in Pandora before I came here, and I bought it."

She produced the map and unfolding it very carefully placed it on a table for all to see.It was a splendid map all in colors showing the whole states of Abbiaannia and everything that happened of the disaster.

"See this"said Minnie.

"Yes."

"Well the flood extends over thousands of miles westward of us and hundreds of miles northward.The deepest of the flood is over Abbiaann of the lower

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portions of the city in the depression of the sou soil caused by the dreadful concussions, mistaken for earthquakes, and this lake extends at its deepest over an area of five hundred square leagues and joins a little with Lake Angeline.One can detect no trace of vegetation or animal on the verge of the flood, not a sound is heard upon its shores.It seems as if nature itself mourns over the great disaster created without her permission. Even birds they say avoid flying over the dreary surface of the waters, and when a breeze stirs the waters of this silent sea, it sounds a funeral dirge and makes people feel as if this portion portion portion had been the end of the world.Nothing alive moves in the waters save the thick masses of debris which now and again flows back and forth nearest the shore or float lazily on the desolate lake."

"It sure was some catastrophe." said Penrod."I was at Abbiaann when the disaster occured.I heard the noise, and felt the shocks and saw the buildings fall and thought at first it was an earthquake.Never again do I want to go through another such experience..I have heard mention a portion of the disaster ranging in Palestine State which rent the city of Remingtonia.The event was so great that the nation was wild with confusion ; and the chroniclers of this time are going to use it in dating occurances of our war disasters.Nearly all the writers however have been from their own fears tended to cultivate volcanic phenomena respecting them.Even at first Dargar, Schloeder, Gingigore, and other great Genini Members, and Scientists were quite ignorant of the true causes and are yet, and even mythology are entering into their speculations.The investigation has now become a science/. Even the Nations of the world now knowing of the disaster are becoming pioneers in this direction, and great Kingdoms are appointing with our permission, but at their risk from the enemy, Imperial and other commissions to inquire into the subject.It will be doubted however that what they report, will be considered of any scientific value to day.. The causes of these great manifestations, and the strange results of them, have been ever active whatever the causes may be.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN.

A LITTLE BIT OF SPYING. THE SPY APPEARS AND DISAPPEARS. A CODE. A CODE FOX.

Gertrude Angelina, Angeline Richau, and the rest of her officers had already written down in their diaries the whole particulars about their experiences in the war since their first entrance into the army as girlscouts, keeping nothing back as far as they could remember,and also soon needing a bigger dairy for they were to go through more yet. While Gertrude was writing down one of her last accounts as far as it was already written here, a man who the girlscouts had never seen before came striding up toward the house. Gertrude wondered who he was as he came apparently plodding toward the entrance, to be halted by the guards.He was a tall strong heavy nut brown colored man , and he wore strange long bobbed hair, and he had on a soiled blue coat his hands ragged, and scarred, wity with black broken nails, and a sabre cut across one cheek, a dirty livid white. She noticed he looked round about him in every direction, and then whistling to himself as he did so, and then suddenly breaking out in a song that sounded very much to Gertrude like a foriegn dilloque..Yet it was something like english and she did understand some of it.

He was singing it in a high, old tottering voice that seemed much out of tune, and as if he was yelling more than singing.Then as he showed his pass he was allowed to go ahead, and he rapped on the door with his hand and when Penrod appeared, asked if he could have a drink of cold water. Penrod looked at him queerly, but he ordered the water to be brought, and when he recieved it he drank slowly, lingering on the time, and still looking about him at the distant fire swept hills, and up at the house, and about the camps.

"This is a handy shelter and beautiful camp" he said at length, in Abbiennian,",nd a pleasant place for any one.Are you all orphans in those clothing."

"No we are not orphans." said Penrod."Do you ever see orphans in uniform uniform.Who are you, and what is your mission.You are not a foriegner are you!"

"No little boy I'm not."

"What brought you here to our camp?"

"Well then"said the man"I was looking for shelter from the enemy and from the fires and flood.You see I'm awful dirty.That is because of my trade. This is the berth for me I hope.Here sir." he cried to the solemn soldier who had followed,"help up with my trunk.I hope I can stay here a bit." he continued."I am a plain solitary man, coffee, bacon, and bread and even eggs or anything you can spare I will glady accept, and the top floor to watch for everything. You may call me Jim.Do you charge for my stay here?"

"Well for the support of our cause, yes"said Penrod."but if you want to remain you'll have to ask either of them"pointing to Gertrude and Angeline Richau.They have more to say than I have, especially the girl with the large orange colored ribbon."

The man walked to the girl with the Orange ribbon.

He told her what she desired, and after looking at him carefully she said yes, but I'll charge you, as you are not a military man.It'll cost you fifty Pezazos a week if you stay that long."

The man handed her three or four gold pieces.

"You can tell me when my time is up." he said looking as fierce as a commander.

And indeed had as his clothes were, and scarsely as he spoke, he had none of the appearance of a man whoever was in the army, but seemed like a citizen accustomed however to be obeyed or to strike.The man who had accompanied him to told both Gertrude and Angeline Richau that the fellow had traveled miles through burning foliage of smouldering forests, that he had inquired what shelter there might be found along the shore of the flood, and hearing of a camp near an abandoned orphan home had chosen it for his place of residence.and that all any one could learn of their strange guest though secretly they kept him under careful surveligence. He was a very silent man by custom.All that day he had hung round the edge of the camp, or upon some hill top, with a long telescope, all that evening he sat in a corner of the room he had been assigned to, and ate his supper in silence.Mostly he would not speak when any of the scouts or soldiers spoke to him, only look up sudden and fierce-and blow through his nose like a foghorn, and every one

knowing that they needed to be careful, pretended to let him be, but kept him watched nevertheless, to see who he really was, and what hispurpose was. Every minute when he had been back from his own scouting he had asked if any other person had come by along the road.At first the girls and boys thought it was the want of company of his own kind that made him continually ask these questions, but by night fall they at last began to understand that he was desirous of avoiding them.When some soldiers passed by, as now and then some would, he would look out for them before he came down below, and he was always sure to be as silent as a mouse when any such soldiers were present even though they were of Gertrudes cavarly escort.For Gertrude, at least, there was no secret about the whole matter, for she was in some way a sharer in his alarms.He had taken her aside that late night before she retired and promised her double pay for his stay if she would in only keep her eye open for a long man, and let him know when he appeared.

That night the horrors of the war haunted Gertrudes dreams.That night was stormy with hot winds from the north, and east, and the howling winds shook the four corners of the house, and the surf of the flood roared along the shore, and in her dreams Gertrude saw the war in a thousand horrid forms, and with a two thousand diabolical expressions. Now the whole world would be devastated by flood and fire, now the enemy was a monsterous kind of a creatu creatu e, who had never anything else but a bloody paw, and that in the middle of his body.To him his leap and run and persue her country over moon and stars was the worst of nightmares.Although andaltogether she realized war was something like these abominable fancies..But though she had been so terrified by the dream she had had, she was far less afraid of the results of the forest fire and the flood itself, than anybody else who knew nothing of it.That morning the stranger ate a breakfast a little bigger than usual, and then he sat and started singing some of his strange english songs, minding no one,, and then he called to the whole company to listen to his stories.His stories would have frightened people worst of all.Dreadful stories indeed they were, about hundreds of thousands perishing of famine, great disasters by scores devastating the country, massacres of children, were mighty battles, and storming disasters of fires, and wild deeds of the Glandelinian horsemen or wheelers, worse horrors than any one could imagine happening in a war.By his own account he must have lived his life and fought through some of the most wickedest Glandelinian regiments that ever was known in the war, and the language in which he told these stories, shocked every one with the true state of affairs, and giving a realization of what dire peril Calverinia was in. Gertrude told him that Mildred Maxwell was always saying that the country would be ruined, that the war would not be won, then he would slap his hand on the table and say that Abbiennia cannot lose, and that no one ought to say that. Gertrude thought too that people would cease coming to Calverinia, to be horrified andput down by such a foe, and sent shivering to their beds; and after all Gertrude believed his presence did her and her followers good, and that he really was a friend, and a refugee..Everybody admired him and said that there must be many men of his sort that made Abbiennia terrible to Glandelinia. He was an escaped spy from a Glandelinian camp who had done some spying work, and learning who the girl was and all her followers he gladly revealed his secret.Should they come and kill me, you know where to find my hidden secret"he had said.It's in a chest which I left up in my room."

.In one way Gertrude feared Glandelinia bade fair to ruin Calverinia for the floods had kept on staying week after week, and had lasted month after month, the fires still raged, so that all things were becomin g exhausted, and Gertrude was sure that even the annoyance and the terror this poor man must have lived through had greatly hastened his early and unhappy death.All the time he stayed with the company the stranger made no attempt to change his clothing,.One of the cooks of his hat fell down, and for some reason or other he let it hangfrom that time forth, though it was a great annoyance to him when it blew in the breeze.Gertrude read remembered the appearance of his coat, which he had patched himself up stairs in his room, and which before the end, was nothing but patches.He never wrote or recieved a letter,and he never spoke with any one but the girls and boy scouts, or the soldiers.The great bang bag he had in his room no one had ever seen open.He was only once crossed or questioned, and that was toward the end when poor Jessa Green was far gone in a decline that finally took him off to his heavenly home.Dr Jones came that morning to see the brave little patient, took a bit of breakfast with the girlscout leaders

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and went into the parlor of the home to await the coming of his horse. Gertrude and several of the girls and Penrod followed him in, and they observed the contrast, the neat bright Angelinian doctor, with his hair as white as snow, and his bright blue eyes and pleasant manners made with the best country folk, and above all with that unusually filthy, heavy scarecrow of a spy of the place, sitting with his arms on the table. suddenly the stranger began to pipe up a song;

"Fifteen million Mandelinia because of Calverinia plight,
Yo--ho-ho, and a bottle with all our might,
Mandelinia and the devil go hang,
and we'll shell crazy Mandelinia with a wizz and bang."

At first Gertrude had supposed That this song must have been newly made by some song writer on the disaster, and the thought had been mingled in her night mares with that of the dreadful floods and forest fires. By this time many of the scouts had all long ceased to pay any particular notice to the song-it was new that night; to no one but the doctor, and on him Gertrude observed it did not produce an agreeable effect, for he looked up for a moment quit sharply before he went on with his talk to one of the soldiers, on a new plan for saving more lives and averting such losses among the scouts. In the meantime the stranger gradually brightened up at his own mucical music, and at last Gertrude flapped her hand upon the table before her in a way all know which meant sil-ence. She thought she had heard something outside. The voices stopped at once; all but doctor Jones, he went on briskly as before speaking clear and kind, and drawing briskly at his cigar between every word or two.

"Oh doctor." came from the stranger.

"Were you addressing me sir."said the doctor.

"Yes Doctor;"I have only one thing to say in argument to what you are saying to that soldier;That if Mandelinia keeps on doing as she is doing now with Calverinia, the world will soon be quite of a very dirty scoundrel of a nation. Mandelinia can go to---"

The old fellows fury was awful. He sprang to his feet as he said these words drew and opened a long sharp knife, and balancing it upon on the palm of his hand, demonstrated what he would do if he had general Manley in the room right now. The doctor looked surprised. He spoke to him, as before over his shoulder, and in the same tone of voice, rather high, so that all in the room might hear, but perfectly calm and steady;

"If you do think you can do up general Manley or his Confederates it would be a wise plan, but I promise you upon my honour, and cross my heart to hope to die, that such an undertaking is like sticking your heads into the mouth of a hell. Manley is too dangerous."

Then followed a battle of looks between them, but the stranger soon realized it was true, and heput up his weapon, resumed his seat and said;

"Well believe me some day some w one will get him."

"And now sir""continued the doctor,"since I know now that there is a man like you in this district, you better keep hiding as you know enemies have an eye upon you day and night. I'm not a doctor only, but I spirit, and a shadower also and I know why you are here. You are an escaped spy. The enemy is combing the country to get you for something, and you may be hunted down and routedout of this. let that suffice; that you must be on your guard. let any one of these girl or boy scouts have you guarded."

"You are right and I will." said the man.

"Why are you dressed like that?" asked Gertrude.

"It's my only hope at disguise."said the man."I'm general Concentinian Armburgs messenger spy. I got the communication through to him but I'm in peril. If anything does happn to me, destroy what I have in the bag in my room."

Soon after the doctors horse came to the door, and he rode away, but the stranger held his peace that evening, and the girls and boys secretly watching him, observed he never stopped reciting his beads Rosary.....

It was not an hour after this on the date of August the 6ty 6th that there occured the first of the mysterious events, that caused the tragedy. It was turning out to be a hot windy and a oky day, and heavy hot gales and it was plain from the first that poor James green was little likely to see the approach of the evening. He sank hourly, and Angeline nichoe was kept busy enough, without paying much time to their unusual but pleasant guest. He paid more than was his due for the rent, saying "Give it to your holy cause, and down mlandelinia....."

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It was still very early in the morning---very early--a hot windy morning the atmosphere all gray with smoke fog, the flood waters lashed into a fury of great waves, bearing the wreckage that was afloat with the noise of a raging battle, and as usual the sun failed to shine. The stranger had risen earlier than usual, and set out down the floods shore, a cutlass was swinging under the broad skirts of an old blue coat, his great telescope under his arm his hat tilted back upon his head. His breath hung like smoke in his wake as he strode off, and the last sound they heard from him after the doctors departure, as he turned a bend in the road, was a loud snort of fiery indignation, as though himself was still running upon Mandelinia and her method of carrying on the awful war.

Till at this time Angeline nichoe was then upstairs with poor James green and Gertrude Angeline had taken her own turn at going to the laying of the breakfast table for all the girlscout officers, and against the strangers return when the parlor door of the home suddenly opened and another stranger was stopped in on whom no one had ever set their eyes before. He was stopped at the entrance by theguards however who demanded of him the counter sign and asked for his passe. He was a tall pale, tallow colored creature, in a long gray coat, with long fingers on each hd with longer finger nails than his hand, and though he wore a short short, and a bronze on his ife side of twopistols instead of having them on each side singly, he did not lok much like a fighter, nor a spy, or message messenger. Gertrude and her gi l girlscout followers always had their eyes open for strangers and persons whom they have never seen before, and especially for any persons who may not be suspicious characters, for she knew since the slaughter of her eighteen boys and girls a few days recently that the whole camp and even the home was in grave peril. Therefore the coming of this man puzzled her and others, and she gave a cry to the guards;

"Don't let him pass till I get a good look at this man, cover him every body there."

she came up, and called Angeline nichoe down, and the two Jennings girls too. He did not appear at all like a soldier, and yet he had a smack of the soldier ways about him too,,,.....

"Who are you and what do you want?" asked Gertrude.

"I would like to have a meal here, and take some rest"

Gertrudes suspicions seemed aroused.

"You cannot eat or drink with us in the officers quarters." she said somewhat hotly. "No indeed. Do you think we run a saloon in this country you silly. You can have some coffee if you like in the parlor."

He grumbled something to himself, and said he would take nothing but rest, or not drink at all, and as Gertrude was going out of the room to fetch strong coffee he sat down upon a table, and motioned to her to draw Nearer.

"Come here Miss." he said. "Come nearer here!"

Gertrude keeping an eye on him took a step nearer.

"Is this table for a man by the name of George; but this room is for a guest who stays here, whom we know as a Hobo."

"Well I understand."said the man" I know a man who may be known as a hobo as not. He has a long cut scar on one cheek and a mighty pleasant way with him, and particularly in drinking. The cut is on the left cheek. He wears a short of long gray coat, and yellow trousers. Ah now I told you. Now is that man in this house, George?"

"We have no one by that description. But our guest himself was out waiting."

"Which way Miss. Which way did he go?"

Gertrude told him that she could not waste time giving too much information that she has her work to do, and if she wished to see any one to wait till he returns, and anythe he was likely to return for breakfast, and soon as possible."

The expression of his face as she said these words, was hot at all pleasant, and she had her own reasons for thinking that the man was greatly mistaken in the one he wish wished to see, even though he spoke what he said. She had her suspicions that he was some Mandelinian agent disguised as he was to find some christian man who might have taken a prisoner in her room. If so she was going to watch closely when the coming man met with the first stranger. As it was duty for country, she believed it was a good affair of her own, and in case of necessity it was not difficult for her to know what to do. She would shot a man on short notice once he proved his real identity if he started to do anything out of the way. The stranger kept

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hanging around about just inside the entrance door, peering round the corner, like a cat watching for a mouse, or watching the girlscout forces at their work of "Policing "about the grounds, and the summary streets of the camp, and the pacing back and forth of those on guard at the flood shore.Once he stepped a little outside into the road, but Gertrude immediately called him back, and as he did not obey quick enough to suit her fancy, she screamed at him enough to make him jump.A horrible face beset on, but he obeyed, half yawning, half sneering, and Gertrude said;

"We scouts demand obedience.No matter who we are, we have authority, and the great thing for every one in our camp whether strangers or our soldiers is discipline, Mr, discipline.Now if you had gone along with our commands long enough, you wouldn't have stood there to be spoken to twice--no sir. That is not the way of any one.And here sure enough is the man I believe you are looking for, with the spy glass under his arm coming this way."

The stranger seeing him coming, went back into the parlor.Gertrude was very uneasy and alarmed as to the outcome, as any one may fancy, and it rather added to her fears to observe that the stranger was rather frightened himself.It was not the man he came to see at all.He cleared the hilt of his sword, and loosened the blade in the sheath; and all the time he was waiting there he kept swallowing as if he had a lump in his throat.At last in strode the ragged one, closed the door behind him, without looking to right and left, and marched straight across the room to where his breakfast awaited him.

"Who are you please"said the stranger, in a voice that Gertrude thought he had tried to make nervy and loud.

The beggar made round on his heel, and fronted him, all the brown had gone out of his face, and even his nose was blue, indeed he suddenly had the look of a man who happens to see a ghost in the dark, or the evil one, or something worse, if anything can be, and Gertrude felt sorry to see him, all in a moment turn so old and sick.

"Jose James tonesse, you know me you are in my grasp now."said the stranger. "what were you doing in the Glandelinian camp to two days ago eh?"

The beggar made a sort of gasp.

"The boy who looks like "Mutt"s " Jeff."said he.

"And who else"returned the other, getting more at his ease."You had I didn't bring "Mutt."Jeff as ever was, if that is how you know me, come for to regain eh regain what you swiped from the Glandelinian camp.Ah, christian no spy that you are, we shall soon see a sight of tians when you come back with me to see general "ylntze."

"No look here"said the guest,"You've succeeded in running me down, there I am, well then, speak up, what is it?"

" That the way you are you, an International spy."thought Gertrude."I have the taps on you, and if you do anything rash I'll drop you from my hiding place."

"You are in the right of you, you a christian spy."returned the small er man."As I cannot have a glass of rum here, I'll order a cup of coffee from one of these boyscouts here, and we'll sit down if you please, and take it over."

""When the boy returned with the hot coffee, they were already seated on either side of the captians breakfast table, the Jeff spy nearest the door, and sitting sideways, so as to have one eye on the christian spy, and one as Gertrude thought on his retreat.He had the boy go and see to it that the door was left wide open, saying it was hot in there, and he wanted some air.For a long time, though Gertrude certainly did her best to listen she could hear nothing but low conversation, but at last in a short time they began to talk in a louder voice, and she could pu pick up a word or two, mostly oaths from the smaller man.

"No,non, no,no,no, that's the end of it"the guest cried once."and again if it comes to going back with you, try and take me back."

Then all of a sudden, there was a tremendous explosions of oaths and blasphemies from the shorter man and other noises,--the chair and table went over with a crash, a clash of steel on steel followed, and then a cry of pain again, and the next instant Gertrude saw the smaller man in full flight,and the guest hotly pursuing, both with drawn swords, and the smaller man streaming with blood from the right shoulder, and arm. Just at the door the guest aimed at the fugitive one last tremendous cut, shouting loudly a Glandelinian curse, and the cut would have certainly split his head to the chin chin had it not been intercepted by a long hanging branch from a tree that grew close close by.The blow of the sword brought the branch to the

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ground/.That was however the last of the sword battle.Once out upon the road, Gertrude organized a pursuit, but the smaller man despite it all and his wounded, showed a wonderful clear pair of heels, till he reached a horse which he quickly jumped upon, and disappeared over the edge of a hill in half a minute.The guest for his part stood staring at the trees like a bewildered man.Then he passed his hand over his eyes several times, and at last turned back into the house.

"Little girl"he said""ot coffee"and as he spoke, he reeled a little-saying to himself "Oh God help me" and caught himself with one hand against the wall.

"Are you hurt?" cried Gertrude.

"Yes a little."he said."As soon as possible I must get away from here. He knows now where I am.He was looking for his helper George and found me here.He'll bring the Glandelinians down upon this camp to get me."

Gertrude ran to fetch some brandy, but she was quite unsteadied by all that had occured, and she broke two glasses, and fouled the tap, and while she was still getting in her own way, she heard three distinct far away shots, heard a loud fall in the parlor, and in running in, behold the guest lying full length upon the floor.At the same ins ant Angeline Richee, alarmed by the cries and the fighting, and the distant shots, came running down stairs to help Gertrude followed by others.Between them they raised his head.They saw blood streaming from a wounded made by a bullet in his shoulder.He was breathing very loud and hard, but his eyes were closed, and his face a horrible color.

"Look"to Penrod Gertrude spoke."Have everybody girls and boys and soldiers concentrated every where in arms right away, in case the enemy attack to get him."

"Dear me"cried Angeline Richee,"What a terrible disgrace for our camp. A brave christian spy shot down in our camp by distant enemies.And poor James dying.I'll get the enemy for this."

In the mean time they had to think fast to do what they could to help the wounded guest, though they wondered how a distant enemy could have shoot him through the window, and yet holes in the glass proved that it had been done.Gertrude put the brandy, and tried tonut it down his throat but his teeth were tightly shut, and his jaw as set jaws as strong as iron.It was a happy relief for them when the door opened, and Dr Jones came on, on his visit to James green.

"Oh Doctor" Gertrude tried."what shall we do?There is he wounded?"

"Wounded in three places "said the doctor who examined him."The man also has had a stroke.Now girls, I you peaceably "Miss Richee, just you run upstairs to Jones, and tell him if possible nothing about it.For my part I must do my best to save this mans life, and Jim to a little boyscout, you get me a basin."

Then the lad got back with the basin, the doctor had already found where the bullet wounds were.One was and was on the arm and it was an arm tattooed in several places.At one place was a tatt tatoo of the Sacred Heart, and at another the mother of God, all or both very neatly and clearly made, and up near the shoulder there was a sketch of the Crucifixon.

"Prophetic and splendid. " said the doctor,touching this picture with his finger."And now Gertrude we'll have a look at the wound.Gertrude are you afraid of blood, or the sight of it?"

"No, sir!" she said calmly."Being on battlefields so much I'm used to such sights."

"Well then"said the doctor just as calmly"You hold the basin, while I clean out the wounds", which he did as quickly and as carefully as possible probing also for the bullets, and found three small leaden balls. A great deal of blood was gone into the basin, and then after the wounds were treated and a bandaged properly the wounded man opened his eyes and looked vaguely about him .First he recognized the doctor, and when his glance also fell upon Gertrude, he looked relieved.But suddenly his color changed, and he tried to raise himself ,crying;

"Where are the dirty Glandelinian savages.They got me alright."

"There are no Glandelinians here"said the doctor,"except those distant savages who shot you through the window.We have been in grave danger precisely as I have told you, and I have just brought you headforemost from the gates of the grave.Now Mr George;

"That is not my name." he interrupted.

"I'll whatever it is"--returned the doctor"It's the name of a christian and of my acquaintance, and I call you by it for the sake of acquaintanceship ,and what I have to say to you is this for a fair warning--keep out of sight for a while or your foes will kill you----do you understand that--

...p out s...aight for a while.Gertrude you must see that he can get some brandy, one glass of it won't hurt him.Come now my friend,---make an effort. I'll help you to your bed at once."

Between three girlscouts, and the doctor, with much trouble they managed to ...e carryhim u-stairs, and laid him on his bed,where his head fell back on the pillow, as if he were almost fainting.

"How could you"said the doctor"Keep yourself hidden.I clare my conscience of any consequences if you do not head my warning,---one moment of exposure will be for your death.Your enemies are still waiting their chance.I know it."

And with that he went off to see Jones, Gert Gertrude accompanying him.

"The wounds are nothing."he said as soon as he had closed the door.He should lie there for a week or so where he is --that is the best thing--but any Glandelinian any coming alone could do him.Do not allow any strangers to see him.That is my advice Gertrude."

It was toward noon or a little earlier that Gertrude stowed at the guests door with some cooling drinks and some medicines.He was lying very very much as the doctor had left him, only a trifle higher, and he seemed both weak and much excited.

"Miss Gertrude"he said."You or your followers are the only ones here who are ever worth anything to the cause, and you know I've been always very good to you since I came here.And now you see child, I'm pretty low, the Glandelinian skunks have got me, and I'm all alone here, and apparently left by myself, and Miss Aventure you'll bring me one glass of Brandy, now won't you, girlie!"

"Yes --but the Glandelinians----"she began---

But he broke in cursing the Glandelinians in a feeble voice, but heartily. "Glandelinians are all wicked and dangerous"he said"and the Glandelinian, there in the distance who got me, why what would they do to get me finally. I've been in 1 places and through experiences as hot as pitch, and comrades dropping round me in battle in whole regiments, and the blessed land heaving like the sea from the concussions of dreadful cannonades and explosions--and what the glandelinians won't do is little--and I lived through an earthly hell, saw Abbianna go beneath the waters, saw these forest fires destroy my fa ily and hom and all I had in life, I tell you.And because I wanted to try to find out whether Glandelinia is rds responsible for Abbiannas destruction, they want to get me.It's been meat and drink, and peril, and adventure, and if the Glandelinians do get me now, I'll be lucky not, and my blood will be on them, and all their leaders"and he ran on for a while with abuses upon Glandelinia,and her ravaging armies."Look Miss Gertrude how my fingers d fidge"he continued, in the pleading tone."I cannot keep them still, no not one moment.I haven't had even good luck to day.Glandelinia is a big reaching fool I tell you.If I don't have a little glass of brandy I won't recover, and I would have no chance to escape, I'm afraid they'll get me here.The Glandelinians are raising cain for what I did.Your doctor friend said so himself they are trying to get me.I'll give you a golden ten dollar piece for a glass Miss Gertrude."

"Knowing that after all you are doing service for your country.I do not want none of your money."said Gertrude."I'll get you a glass of brandy and a good size as I am sure you'll not get jerked on that. "

Both he and she laughed.

When Gertrude brought it to hi , he took it, and drank it out, but slowly.

"Aye, aye, that makes me feel better sure enough." he said."And now my girlie, how long did the doctor say I was to lie here in the bed!"

"A week at least."said Gertrude."

"A week!I believe the Glandelinians will get me by then.Why girlie I can't do that, they'll get in here despite your swords, they'd have a full chance on me before then.The Glandelinians are going tosend 'escadons' into the cave at any moment, and they'll sure get me.They are dangerous when they know I'm an escaped spy you know.But I'm going to try my luck.I'm not afraid of them,but I don't believe in throwing my life away for them either.I'll try and trick them.I must go as soon as possible.I must go now."

As he was thus speaking, he had risen from his bed with great difficulty ,holding to Gertrudes shoulder with a grip that almost made her cry out, and moving his legs so much like dead weight.His words spirited as they were in meaning, const contrasted sadly with the weakness of the voice in which they were uttered.He paused when he had gotten into a sitting position on the edge of the bed.Just as he did so, there was the d far distant ping of a rifle, and a bullet missing him by a narrow margin, cut a hole in Gertrudes hair ribbon and embedded itself o in the wall.

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The shot had come in the open bedroom window, and nicely and quietly punctured a little hole in the window glass.

"That Glandelinian sniper will be the death of me yet." he murmured."My days is singing.Lay me back before the scoundrel scoundrel fires another shot

Before she could lay him back or do much to help him, he had himself fallen back again to his former place, where she lay for he lay for a while. "Miss Aronburg." he said at length."Yu saw that Glandelinian spy here again to day!"

"You mean the one who looks like Jeff, in the funny pears."?

"Yes.

"No, not after you almost got him."

"Ah the "Jeff"."said the stranger."He's a bad Glandelinian alright, but there are worse devils that put him up to it.Now I f if I cannot get away, and they finally get me, mind you, it's the papers which I secured at Hylotzes headquarters they are trying to regain.They'll probably attack your camp to get me and in case they threaten to you'd better disperse from this locality as they may attack in overwhelming numbers.I was a great spy and courier for general Aronburg, and I'm the only one who knows Hylotzes like a book.But you won't need to move unless some other spy steals in to see me--but for your sake be on your guard, above all.Hylotze and his army is only thirteen miles away near Sanitary Creek."

"But how do you know whether they know this camp or not, sir!"Gertrude asked.

"I know it. I'll tell you more if you like like, but you must try and not let them regain what I took from them.If they do get that all is gone. You keep your eyes open like an eagle Gertrude, and you'll not go unrewarded, upon my honor."

He spoke a few minutes longer, but his voice was growing weaker, but soon after Gertrude had given him his medicine which he took like a child, with the remark"If ever a man needed drugs it's I'm "he at last fell into a heavy swoon like stupe sleep in which Gertrude left him.what Gertrude should have done, and whether it would have gone well, will she did not know. She believed that probably she should have told the whole story to the doctor-for she was in mortal fear lest the Glandelinians should sneak in disguised as her own soldiers and make an end of the man in a cowardly manner.But the doctor was too far away just then and she was at a los loss.But as j such luck would have it, James died quite suddenly that forenoon, which indeed put all other matters out of the question.The natural distress, and worry of all her followers, the slower recovery of Jean, and Jane, the visits of two strange men , the arranging of the burial for James, and all the work of the military affairs to be carrid on in the meanwhile, kept Gertrude, and her officer girls scouts so busy that she had scarcely time to always think of the guest, for less be afraid of what might occur to him, as the whole building was under the strickest guard, and watched closely from a distance also. A little a t after dinner time he could sit up a little, but Gertrude had the blinds closed so no distant Glandelinian sniper could see into the room, and he had his meal as usual, though he h ate little , and had more, than his usual supply of coffee.When he was asked if h would like a little more brandy he said."No.".A little after dinner while sitting up in bed, it was surprising in that house of mourning, to hear him singing away some of the old time Catholic hymns, but weak as he was, they were all in fear of death for him, for if there were any secret enemis within the camp they would hear him and locate his room. And the man was weak, and yet he was growing weaker, than instead of regaining his strength/ He tried once to get out of bed and clamber down and up the stairs despite the doctors advices, and went from the parlor to the bedroom again, and once put his nose out of doors, to get some fresh air, holding on to the walls as he went for support, and breathing hard and fast like a man climbing up a steep and high mountain.He did not then address Gertrude, his temper concerning Glandelinians was more flighty,and allowing for his bodily weakness and his condition, and what he had seen, more violent than ever.But with all th that, he did not pay attention to any one, and seemed shut up in his own thoughts, and rather wandering.Once for instance,, he struck upon a different chord, and sang "Onward Christian Soldiers".So dinner time passed, and about one oclock or a little later of a hot foggy early afternoon, Gertrude was standing at the door for a moment, full of sad thoughts about her losses, and her long delay here when she so desired to get back home to the armies,when she saw some one drawing swiftly near along the road on a horse.

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He was not in a uniform, and was plainly dressed, and he wore a green hat cocked to one side of his head, and wore a huge cloak with a hood, that made him near half ghost and half man.Gertrude never in her life saw any more dreadful looking creature.Was it his disguise? Or was he naturally that way.He halted the horse in front of the door at which Gertrude was standing, and addressed her saying;

"Is this St Gertrudes Orphan Asylum?"

"Yes, you are at the home, my good man"said Gertrude."But you cannot pass without a counter sign.There are soldiers inside."

"He showed a pass and gave the words. Gertrude felt he was all right, as no one could hoodwink the christians, as every sentry had a new counter sign.

"Well I guess you are all right."She said.

"I am."He said. "Will you give me your hand my child, my kind young girl friend, and lead me in."

Gertrude held out her hand, and the soft spoken man took hold.

"Now my dear girlie." he said."Take me in to a man named Jones."

"Sir."said Gertrude,"upon my word I dare not."

"Oh no don't be suspicious.I'm in a hurry, and Heaven knows I went through hell and torture to reach him."Take me in straight or both of us will be dead in two minutes.We are in the greatest danger.For God's sake don't hesitate."

"Sir."Gertrude said"It is for yourself I mean.The man is not what he used to be.He has been wounded by three shots.A sniping Glandelinian-"

"C ome now march for Heavens sakes" he said, and she never heard a word so fearsome, anxious, excited, and apprehensive as that name.It surprised her more than anything else,and she obeyed him at once, taking him up to the room where the sick spy was sitting on his bed, dazed with his misery and his thoughts of the loss of home and dear ones.The other man clung to Gertrude holding her by the hand as if she were his own daughter.

"Lead me straight upto him, and when I' in the room cry out"Here's a friend for you Mr K Jones."

He had no so oner spoke spoken than there was a crash of glass and a bull bullet again a imbedded itself in the wall.Between this and that Gertrude was so apprehensive, that she started to run for the window drawing her pistol but the man holding her immdiately grimped her wrist like a vice. Gertrude struggled to withdraw, but the man pulled her close to him right up to him with a single action of his arm.

"Now girlir for God's sake and ours don't be rash."He said. "The moment you show yourself at that windowand you're a goner."

"But I must get that sniper."she gasped."

"No, no you don't understand."He uses a smokeless rifle and you cannot see the smoke..

The commotion, and the shot had aroused the stranger.The poor wounded man raised his eyes,and at one look, the pain went out of them, and left him staring in surprise.The expression of his face was not so much of gladness as of thankfulness.He made a movement to rise, but he had not enough force left in his body.

"No Jones sit where you are."said the stranger."Bus business is bi business. Hold out your hand.I have something for you."

He obeyed to the letter,and Gertrude sawchin pass something into the palm of the wounded mans, which closedupon it instantly.

A"And now that is done""said the stranger."and he turned let go of Gertrude,and with incredible accuracy and nimbleness, skipped out of the bedroom, and went down the stairs and into the road, and Gertrude followed him untill she stood at the door, and just as she saw him start away on his horse, a bullet from some unseen point took off the locks of her hair.A second put out a light in the parlor, and a third brought down a swinging lamp.Gertrude quickly went to a better place of concealment, and went back upstairs to see how the poor guest was faring. She observed the man had gathered his senses, and he looked sharply into his palm.It was a paper with a code warning to him.

"We might at ten oclock the enemy is going to attack the camp"He cried."We only got six hows more to wait."I'll do them yet"and he sprang to his feet. Even as he did so, he reeled, a shot had hit him somwhere, hemut his hand to his throat, stood swaying for a moment, and then with a peculiar sound, fell from his whole height from forenost to the floor.Gertrude ran to him calling on Angeline Hughes, and others.But haste was in dead all in vain. The poor man had been struck dead by a bullet striking him in the head.

As soon as Gertrude realized he was dead, she burst into tears.It was the next awful death she had known, and the sorrow of the other first was still fresh in her heart.

Gertrude of course lost no time whatever, in first seeing to it that all her cavalry escorts were prepared to meet any move the attackers might make, and to have the eldest boyscouts ready too, and then she told Angeline Riches all she knew, and which perhaps she should have told her long before this and indeed every one in the camp saw themselves at once in a most difficult and dangerous position

. Some of the poor mans money---if he really had any was certainly good to use for the cause, but it was not likely that the Glendelinian soldiery, above allthe enemy officers would be inclined to give up anything to wan for their own cause either.The spy's advise to mount at once and ride to the nearest christian post would have left others alone and unprotected so it seemed withod an able leader, and thistherefore was not to be thought of.Indeed it seemed impossible for the whole force to remain much longer in this locality should the enemy make an attack in overwhelming force , the fall of coals in the kichen grate, the very ticking of a clock, filled the girls with alarms.every noise had made Gertrud put her hand on her colt bag.The very neighborhood to their ears, seemed haunted by the encroachin approaching footsteps of many men, and what between the assassinated mans body on the parlor floor of the home, and the thought of so many des detestable Glendelinian soldiers o robably hovering near at hand, and ready to move to the attack, there were moment, when as the saying goes, Gertrude jumped in her boots for terror.Something must be speedily resolved upon , and it occured to both Gertrude and An geline Riches at last to go to go forth, and see to it that retreat could be made quickly to the raft in case they all were getting worsted in the threatening squabble. N o sooner said than done. Bareheaded indeed as the girlscout fficers were at the time, they rode out at once in the gathering late afternoon, and the smoky fog, which kept on the strange rotten darkness. The men and boys in charge of the raft were not many hundred yards away, thouhout of view, on the other sid side of a cove extending into the flood, and what greatly encouraged the little girls it was in an opposite direction from that whence the Glendelinian attackers may ake their appearance.They were not many minutes in the road, though they some times stopped to lay hold of each other, so as not to be lost in the fog and to harken, when there was a sudden glare of light in the sky, and a crazed nerve racking crash of thunder in the sky.

"Good God."cried Gertrude."Down girls.Shrepnell."

However they did not have the chances to dismount qui quick enough but the bomb did not burst directly overh e head, ahd thereofre no one was struck by the swiftly falling fragments.They continued on foot, now so as to throw themselves down in case of necessity but there was no more reports.They soon reached the shore of the flood and indeed they could never forget a how much more ch erful they felt to see the huge raft.Gertrude gave the orders to have the raft in readiness.The news of the believed coming attack carried a great weight of coming excitement.Some of the guards who had been doing last duty on the far side of the home, remembered besides, to have seen several strange squadrons of cavarly on the road, and taking them as Glendelinians had kept hidden away, though at the same time signalled warning.For that matter any one who knew of the approach of the foe was enough to make any one prepared.And the short end long of the matter was, that they got several men who were willing enough to ride to the direction where G rtrude said she believed the christian lines lay, to bring a goodly force to help defend the camp or home, or bring them on time to prevent a defeat.They say excitement and desire to do battle is infectious, but then argument is, on the other hand a great emboldener, and so when each had said they would do what they could to have the raft in readiness, Gertrude made them a spe speech. She would not she declared, lose theposition of the nice home grounds,and so forth and wemust try first to hold it. We all dare and will fight.Back we will go the way we came, and remember prepare the raft for our retreat in case we get worsted.Fortunately our men have about thirteen machine guns and plenty of ammunition, and all of us are somewhat supplied with hand grenades and good repeating rifles and reliable pistols.We'll have that bag open too if we die for it.Remember now what I say, so we won't meet with disaster, or too heavy a loss.The children need not fight unless the soldiers are not able to hold their own.All us kids will defend the home from door and window."

The soldiers declared they were all in readiness but even then Gertrude feared a bad end of the conflict.The soldiers prepared for the positions assigned of them, lest they were attacked first,and all had their horses ready saddled in case they would be pursued when defeated, while a number were to ride forward to the lines in search of armed assistance.

Gertrudes heart was beating finely when she and her followers set forth
the hot afternoon upon this dangerous venture.They went by foot this time in case shells would fall near them.The fog of smoke did not make it as dark as they desired and to increase their apprehension a glare was beginning to show through the upper edges of the fog,and this increased their haste, for it was plain before they came forth again, that if more flares showed themselves even at a distance all would be as bright as day, and they would be exposed to the eyes of the artillery watchers of the enemy.They slipped cautiously along the hedges, noiseless n and swift, nor did they see or hear anything to increase their excitement or terror, till to their relief, the door of the home closed behind them.They placed an increased number of guards at once, and Gertrude and Angeline stood and panted, for a moment in the dark hall, alone in the home with the dead spys body.Then Angeline got a candle in a bottle ,and holding each others hands, they advanced into the parlor.The poor man lay as they had left him, on his back, with his eyes open, and one arm w stretched out.

"Draw down the blind Gertrude."whispered Angeline"The secret spies of the enemy might come and watch outside.

"Gertrude did, and then she said" And now we have to get the key to that satchel, and where is it I should like to know." and she gave a kind of sob, as she said the words.

Angeline Riches went down on her knees at once.On the floor close to his hand, there was a little sheet of paper.She could not have the slightest doubt that this was a code warning, and taking it u p, she found written on it in a very good clear hand, this short message;

"Better get out comrade.The Glandelinians are going to make an assault upon the camps to capture you.You have till twelve to night."

"He had till twelve"said Angeline to Gertrude"and just as she said it the clock in the room began striking.This sudden noise startled them, and both instantly drew their pistols, but the news was good, for it was only four.

"Now Gertrude"Angeline Riches said"I must find that key."

She felt in his pockets, one after the others.A few small gold coins, a rosary, and a small purse f ll of Miraculous medals, a piece of stick candy bitten away at the end, a childs pictue, a knife, a pocket compass, and a pair of shoestrings were all that they cont i contained, and she began to despair.

"P rhaps you'll find it round his neck." suggested Gertrude.

Angeline tore open his shirt at the neck, and there sure enough, hanging to a bit of ribbon with a medal she found the key.she cut off the key, and at this success they were filled with hope, and hurried up stairs without the slightest delay to the little room where he had slept, and where his valise had been left since the day of his arival. It was like any satchel that a man would carry but there was no name or identification on the satchel and the girls suspected this is what he must have taken away from the enemys camp.

"Give me the key"said Gertrude, and though the l ok was very stiff(hiff) she had succeeded in turning it, and thrown it open immediately.A strong smell of tobaco, and tar rose from the interior, but nothing was to be se n on top except a gray unifor of very valuable sinklen material, carefully brused and folded.They had never been worn, and evidently belonged to general Mylatze.Under that the articles c come, first a brance of very good pistols ,a piece of strange silver in a square form, tobaco of all kinds, for smoking, a box of cigarettes and many other trinkets of little value and mostly of foriegn make at that a pair of military telescopes and compasses mounted with brass, and a number of curious sea shells. Gertrude wondered since why general Mylatze if these had belonged to him he should have carried about these small shells in his wicked campaigns of war.

However so far she nor Angeline Riches had found nothing of value.Underneath there there was an old military cloak.Angeline pulled it out with impatience,and there lay before the two girls,the last things in the big satchel, a bundle of something tied up in paper, and a canvas bag that gav forth, at a touch the jingle of gold.

"We'll need this forour cause"said Gertrude."Forour country we'll tak the money as the man said it was his."

"I'll show these Glendelinians that I'm going to get the best of them" said Angeline Riches."

It was a long difficult business to place the coins in a few close boxes for the coins were of all sizes, all shaken together and of wonders end of all countries strange to say.When they were about half way through, Angeline suddenlyput her hand on Gertrudes arm, for she had heard in the silent warm smoky air, a sound that brought her heart into her mouth--some kind of a

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strange tapping sound or as some noise upon a frozen ground.The sound was becoming louder and louder, while the two girls sat holding their breath. Then it struck shorn into the air but for every, and then they could hear a strange rumbling sound, and something as if the butt of the door was rattling as if someone was trying to enter, and then there was a long time of silence, both within and without.At last th the tapping sound in the distance re-commenced, but to their indescribable joy and gratitude died slowly away again untill it ceased to be heard.

"Gertrude"said Angeline"Take the whole and let's be getting ready"For I fear that sound was something suspicious, and if the attack come and is victorious we'll have the whole hornets nest about our ears, though how thankful I was that we hadour entrance ways strongly guarded, with orders to let no one in, pass or no pass, counter sign or not."

But Gertrude frightened as she was, would not consent to give up the coins and was obstinately unwilling to be content with less.It was not yet five oclock by a long way, she knew the right thing to do, and she was still arguing with Angeline, when a little low whistling sound a good way off upon some far distant hill, and there came a strange flash of red light followed by yellow and blue, and then green.That was enough,, and more than enough for both of them.

"I'll take them all without sorting them." she said jumping to her feet.

"And I'll take everything else, and the whole satchel to square the counts."said Angeline, and h she ordered a soldier to carry it for her.

Next moment the three were grouping down the stairs, putting out the light and the next they were in full retreat tward the strongermansion of the camp.The smoke for was rapidly dispersing, already a new glow shone quite clear, and it was only the exact bottom of the dell and round the camp that a thin veil still hung unbroken to conceal the first movements of all in the camp, and what Gertrude and Angeline were doing.Far less than half way to the camp very little beyond the bottom of the hill they all must come forth into the glare.Nor was this even all for the sound of many footsteps running came already toour ears, mingled with the muddn crush of many rifles, and as the girls looked back in their direction, a light tossing to and fro and still rapidly advancing, showed that the Glandelinian carried a torch.

'ngeline said to the man""ake the old bay and run on "

his was certainly the end for all of us "ngeline "ichon thought how she cursed the wickedness of Glandelinia hey were just at the little bridge near the camp, by good fortune, and both she and Gertrude came to the edge of the bank, where she hid the money "ey were soon under the arch with pistols drawn o run any further would expose themselves to the enemy which was suicide So there for a short time they had to stay, each almost entirely exposed, and within eq earshot of the horse

CHAPTER SIXTEEN?

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THE ATTACK IS VICTORIOUS ,BUT AT A DREADFUL COST OF LIFE? AND THE LOSS OF THEIR LEADER? THEY FIND THE SPYS PAPERS.

Gertrude had however more curiousity than fear, for she felt she could not remain where she was, and so she crept back to the bank again, whence sheltering her head behind a long thorn hedge, she tried to get a view of the road leading tward the camp.She was scarcely in posit on when the Glandelinians began to arive in great numbers, seven or eighteen hundred of them at the first sight running herd, their feet beatingou of time along the roads, and the leader some paces in front.Three lines came up atone time, and Gertrude made out even through the smoke mist, that the middle man of this column of attackers was the leader, and a general at that.The next moment his voice moved to Gertrude that she was right.

"Capture and destroy the camp." he cried.

The men rushed forward with loud cries, and a rush was made for the very camp, but the whole position beside the camp erupted fire and smoke and the first of the line melted away, the torch bearer following, and then she could see the survivingGlandelinianspause, and hear theofficers yell and entrate commands, as if they were all embrassed and confused by the sudden terrific reception.But the pause was brief, for the Glandelinian leader again issued his commands.His voice sounded louder and higher, as if he were afire with eagerness and rage.

"Forward, forward, forward." he shouted, and cursed the rest for their delay in pressing the attack.Four or five of the regiments obeyed at once, two remaining to make a strange movement to the rear.They too received a withering fire that destroyed two regiments, and again there was a pause, then a cryof surprise from the leaders, and then a voice shouting from the glandelinians-

"One ofour leaders are dead.

But the general swore at them again for notrushing on to the attack and finally it was so spiritued that the house itself was captured.

Finally came a cry from a window-

"That dirty christian spy is dead."

"Search him you shirking skunks,and the rest of you on, and on, and capture the camp." he cried.

Gertrude and Angeline Richee could hear the rest of the column go forward to storm the main camp, so that the air soon shook with the noise of the fighting.A hundred men had entered the house only to find it deserted.Prmp Promptly afterwards fresh sounds of astonishment arose, the window of the spys room was thrown open with a bang, and a jingle of broken glass, and a man leaned out, and addressed the leader on the road in front of the doorway below him.

"Your Excellency"he cried."The christian dogs have been before us. Some ones clear taken the big st satchel box and cleared out."

"Ain't it there."

"No."

The leader cursed and blasphemed.

"Ain't the papers there I mean?, he cried.

"We don't see it here anywhere." returned the man.

"Have you in the parlor room below there, is it on the spy." cried the leader again."

A' that another Glandelinian who had come in below went up to search the spys body and he finall came back down saying;

"The christian dog of a spy has been over hauled already."

"Yes.?"

"Yes, nothing left."

"It's these darn christian dogs of the camp--it's that girlscout leader Angelinia Aronburg.I wish I had seen her and put her eyes out."Cried the Glandelinian leader."They must have received the spy here.Scatter lads and find here.The rest of you go on and carry the camp."

"Sure enough that Gertrude Angeline left her ribbon with a bullet hole here." said the Glandelinian soldier from the window.

"Never mind that darn ribbon.Scatter and find her.Rout the house out. Set the buildings on fire." reiterated theyGlandelinian general striking with his riding stick upon the road.

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.Then there followed a great to do thro u h all portions of the house and the outbuildings, heavy feet pounding to and fr o, furniture thrown over, windows broken, doors kicked in, while further off the sound of fighting increased untill the very rocks and woods, and flood echoes, and the men soon came out of the buildings,and declared that the chief girlscout leader was no where to be found.And just then the same peculiar sound that Gertrude had heard when in the boys room and that had alarmed her and Angeline Richee when looking over the dead mans property was once more clearly audible thrurh the late afternoon, but this time it was continuous.Gertrude had at first thought it to be the signals of the Glandelinian leader, summoning the Glandelinians to the assault, but she now found it was a signal from the hillside toward the burned town,and from its effect upon the attacking rebels a signal to warn them of approaching danger.

"There's the warning again."cried the Glandelinian general."Those fresh troops of christian dogs must be close by--they can't be far, scatter and lok for that Gertrude Angelina girl.Oh shiver my soul, if I had my eye glasses."

This signal seemed to produce some effect, for the Glandelinians began to look here and there among the timber and in other places, but half heartedly as it seemed, and with half an eye to their own danger all the time-while the rest went on attacking the camp and setting tents on fire and routing the soldiers.

"You have your hands on millions of dollers if you capture that little girlscout fool, and you shirk at it.Could be as rich as kings if you could find the little skunk and you surely know she's here somewhere,and you stand there skuklin skulking.There wasn not one of you dared faced general Hansoni a-and r did it in battle.And I'm to lose my chance for you.If you soldiers had the pluck of a weevil you would catch that Gertrude Angeline in no time."

"Hang it general, we've got the house, and the camp in our us possession." cried one."

"That Angelinia Aronburg might have the darn thing."said the other.

"Let's to take what we got, and don't stand here squalling."

Squalling indeed was the word for it, and the attack in the distance so rose so high in fury, till at last the defenders were retreating toard the point as Gertrude had suggested.This issue of the conflict however was the saving of the two girls, for while it was still raging, another sound came from the top of the hills on the side of the house--the tramp of many horses galloping.Almost at the same time a fusnilade of hundreds of cavarly rifles, flash and reports came from the hedge side.And that was plainly the last sign l of danger, for it was the approach of dangerous Glandelinian cavarly, for the defenders turned and once at the cry of their leaders and ran, separating in every direction according to Gertrudes plan, one regiment floodward along the cove, one regiment slant across the hill, and so on so that in half a minute not a sign of them remained to the sur rised Glandelinians.The Glandelinian leader urged his men on in A frensy, and calling for his comrades to find and exterminate the christian dogs.Finally he took the wrong turn,and rode a few steps past Gertrude, toward the bridge crying"Forward."

Just then the noise of horses topped the rise, and dur or five squadrons of Glandelinian cavarly came in sight through the haze, and swept at full gallop down the slope.. Gertrude saw her chance, and as the Glandelinian leader ran toard a ditch urging his men on she fired a shot, and into the ditch he rolled.But.though wounded he was on his feet again, and made another dash, now utterly bewildered, right under the muzzle of the coming horses as Gertrude fired again.The rider tried to save his but in vain.Down went the wounded with a cry that rang high in the air, and dur hoofs trampled and spurned him, and passed by.He fell on his back, and then gently collapsed upon his side, and moved no more.As soon as the glandelinians were all out of sight and everything quieted down, Gertrude and Angeline Richee turned to their feet, and hailed the other portion of her christian comrades coming up from a different direction at hearing the sound of conflict.The head man was a colonel the rest were Abyssinkilions. That the Glandelin lans never thought of searching under the bridge Gertrude and Angeline ever owed their gre a reation fro dos.The Glandelinian lead r, and hundreds of the Glandelinian soldiers were dead.The wounded had been cut carried away.In the meantime all had swiftly and quickly retreated toward the cove where they had their raft, outwitting the Glandelinians, and leaving everything in hiding and the new force of christian cavarly being overwhelming attacking the Glandelinians from the rear, d as reing them and destroying a terrible number to add to their already heavy loss.

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The cavarly then dismounted and scoured down the direction and other hilly be ground, leading and sometimes supporting their horses, and in spite and fear of mishaps, so it was no great matter for surprise then when they got down to the side of a stream the last of the Glandelinians were in full flight.The Cavarly leader hailed the Glandelinians telling them"Come back and fight some more for the christian dog"."

"A voice replied, telling him to keep out of sight, or he would k ave some lead in him,and at the same time a bullet whistled close by his ear.Soon after the last of the Glandelinians disappeared.The Abyssinkilions then just stood there like fishes out of water--and the leader dispatched a man to warn Gertrude that it was best to return the trip down the flood or the foe would return in still heavier numbers.

"They got off clean at that."said Angeline Richee.

"I'm glad I put their leader out"said Gertrude."

She went with Angeline Richee to the orphan home to see how it looked inside, and who could imagine a house in such a state of condition,the very hall clock had been thrown down by these Glandelinians in their furious hunt for Gert u Gertrude, and though nothing had been actually taken away, Gertrude could see at once that it was best to resume the journey or face grave danger of annihilation, for return with reinforcements the enemy would surely do. Angeline Richee could make nothing of the scene.

"They are coming back with more troops you say.Well then Gertrude, what in fortune were they after.Something the spy had I suppose."

"No Angeline not for that"said Gertrude."In fact, I believe I have the very thing in mypocket, and to tell you the truth I should like to have it put in a safe place."

"To be sure Gertrude, quite right"said Angeline Richee."I'll take care of it if you like."

"I thought perhaps Jean----"Gertrude began.

"Perfectly right"angeline interrupted very cheerily,"And now I come to think of it, we might as well ride round and report to Dolores our friend and give her advice.The Glandelinian general is dead, not that I regret it, but he too is dead you see, and the Glandelinians will come back in heavy numbers to revenge it if they can.Now I'll tell you Gertrude, if you like, I'll guide you along during the resumption of the trip."

Gertrude thanked her heartily for the offer, and they walked back to the house where the horses were.As soon as Gertrude and Angeline Richee were mounted, the party struck out at a bouncing trot toard where they knew their defeated troop were in hiding.By the looks of things Gertrude wondered, not a red coat or a bow or girlscout was seen among the fallen.Was the enemy the only side to lose numbers in dead and wounded.The answer was soon to be found out"Yes."

Why would be the question, but no one knew....

Gertrude And Angeline Richee rode hard all the way, till they drew nu to the spot where the retreated forces had taken shelter.It was all dark now either from the lateness of the morning or from smoke in the sky.Gertrude halted before a house, where she felt sure her girlscout officers had retreated. The guard admitted her, and to the girlscout who respondend Gertrude asked;

"Are the Jennings sisters in?"

"No"she said"they have been gone on to scout after our battle with the enemy but I believe they may have went to a small inn like place near the city of St Gertrude."

"There's where we go ,Angeline."said Gertrude.

This time as the dis ance was short, the two girlscouts did not mount, but ran with with Angeline and soon came to an inn which had in front great old gardens crowned with great pine trees. Here they halted,and talking to a guard, they were ushered into the house. The girlscout side-de-camp led the two girlscout leaders through a matted passage, and brought them at the end into a great room, all lined with fir tree branches, where the two Jennings girls, and all the girlscout officers were all sitting around a big long table.

Gertrude nor Angeline Richee had never seen the girlscout leaders sitting in this fashion before.

The girlscout officers all stood as as Gertrude and Angeline Richee entered, being at attention, but Gertrude spoke the word"At rest" and they all reseated themselves. Dolores then told her story of the fight like a child reciting her lesson, and the reader should have seen how the girlscout officers leaned forward, and looked at each other, and forget to salute in their surprise and interest. Then when the girlscout officers learned how Gertrude and Angeline Richee went back to the Orphan House to secure what the spy had taken from Heletze, Dolores fairly clapped her hands,, and her

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sister cried bravo,"and in her excitement took her riding stick against the fire grate.. Minnie here if was striding about the room, and the others as it to hear better, had sat up straight. Every one had their own story to tell, and of how the boys themselves risked all perils to bring back Joan and Jane safely away, and how Mary Sunshine Glorinia was also wounded in bringing away one of the wounded boys, but not badly however.

"Girls""said Gertrude,"You are all very noble girlscouts as that, and even the boyscout side say they themselves could do no better. And as for the officers riding down that black atrocious miscreant of a Glandelinian general as my own did, I regard it as an act of virtue, like stamping on a cockroach. You girls are all trumps all right, and worthy of a better education. George"to her aide-de-camp,"will you ring that bell. All of us must have some refreshments after our excitement, though its only five o'clock."

"And so Gertrude"said Dolores,"You have the strange thing that the Glandelinians attacked us for to regain, have you?"

"I sure have."said Gertrude [illegible]

[illegible] I sure have "said Gertrude"and she drew [illegible] Dolores the oil skin packet.

Dolores and her sister looked it over, and also Graceadelinia and Angelina Rae Rae and her sister Heidid Heidid Heidi, and Dolores looked as if she were desirous of opening it, but instead of doing that, sheput it quietly in the middle of the table..

"Girls"said she,"Then we all have hedour supper here, I must of course be off on my own work, but we must all remain here untill we renew our retreat down the raft to night, and with Gertrudes permission, I propose we should have the supper on the birds and animals we captured and killed oncur forays a few days ago,and we'll all sup."

"As you will, Dolores"said Gertrude," very body has earned what we eat, and we'll need it. It's a good thing the enemy did not capture our weapons and provisions and tents."

So the early supper was prepared, and every one made a hearty supper for every one w was a hungry as h w hawks or wolves, while Dolores was further complimented and at last dismissed to do her work.

"And now graceadelinia"said Angeline Jennings.

"And now Angeline"said Graceadelinia in the same breath.

"One at a time, one at a time." laughed Graceadelinia."You have heard of general Hyletze I suppose."

"Heard of him!"cried all the girlscout officers in one voice."

"Heard of him"Echoed Angeline Jennings."He is the fiercest Glandelinian general that ever commanded an army. The Hanleys are children compared to Hyletze. Other christian generals are so greatly afraid of him, that I someth sometims feel proud that we can get som christian general that will be a match to him. I've seen him often, and seen other armies at his approach had retreated. So for only Angeline Richens father is brave enough to fight him."

"Well I've heard of him myself in Angelinia Agathia"said Dolores."But the point is, had he any secret of the Abbiasnn horror. That spy that was killed, believed he had. That is why at such an awful risk he secured the hie bag, which Gertrude brought here and also placed on the table."

"The secrets of the Abbiasnn disaster."cried Minnie."Have you heard the spys story. That were the Glandelinians after, but to get that bag and this packet on the center of the table. They were not after money I'm sure. That do they care for money. For what would they risk such an awful loss of life among themselves for money, when they despite the hot fight did not succeed in bringing a single one of us down, scouts of cavarly soldiers!"

"That we shall soon know"replied Angeline Richen. "But the rest of you are so confoundedly excited and enthusiasd and exclamatory that no one else including I or Gertrude cannot cannot get a word in. What I want to know is this. Supposing I have here in the center of this table some clue to what Hyletze might know of that subject, will that clue account to much?"

"Account Gertrude"Cried the girls.

"It will account to this"continued Heidi,"if we have the clue you talk about, we'll fit the raft, and we'll have the name and persons who committed that deed in a few months."

"Very well."said Gertrude."Now then is Miss Richen agrees to it, we will open the packet, that is laid before us on the table."

"I Agree."said Angeline Richen.

They found that the bundle was sown together by strong flax, and Mary Glorinia who is a little girlscout nurse had to get out her instrument case and cut out the stich stiches with her medical scissors. It contained two things, Hyletzes 's dairy, a book, and a sealed yellow paper of large size....

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"first of all girls,"said Gertrude w"we will try the book."

At Dolores surgestion, a few candles were lighted, and the aide-de-camp drew down all the window shades.

Everybody who could peared over Gertrudes shoulder as she opened it. On the first page there were only scraps of writing done strangely enough in German, such as any man with a pen in hand might for idleness or practice. One was Hyletzes name "Isaac Heidid or Heidi Hyletze "Written as following, "Born in Glandelinia but of German descent, then there was Beppo B Evans."No more christian Dogs". At Angelinia Agathia he stole ITT, and many other strange writings, mostly single words and also unintelligible. The girls could not help wondering who it was that "Got Itt,"and what"Itt" was that he got. A good kick as not.

"Not much instruction here." said Dolores, as she passed on.

The next six or seven pages were filled with a curious series of entries. There was a date of each end of the line of entries, and also losses of Glandelinian armies incurred in battle, the number of general officers killed, the names of new ones coming in, but in stead of explanatory writing, only a varying number of crosses and check marks between each line as if it was almost a written puzzle. One was also written that on the sixteenth of June for instance, a sum of seventy million dollars was paid for explosives for designing something of blowing up dikes of Lake Salicia, which had been sent to some Glandelinian officer, and there was nothing but six death head and designs to explain the cause. In a few cases to be sure, the name of a place or town or army would be added, or a mere entry of location, name of stream, river, creek, brook, or country place, or hill, or whether this was a high mountain, a volcano, a water way or whether the christians were going to take"Swamps."

This record whatever it was must have lasted over three or four weeks, the number of the seperate entries growing larger as time went on, and at the one end a grand total had been made out after ten or eleven wrong additions, and these words whatever they were seemed mysterious to all the girls except one or two.

"I cannot make head or tails of this to save my life"said Angeline Jennings.

"The thing is as clear as as noon day."said Gertrude."This is the black hearte hearted glandelinian hounds account book of something pertaining to the disasters, that Violet, and her sisters wish us to investigate with them. They're gone but I do not worry about them, because they'll return. I fill sure of it, Evans's will find them, and we can then do as they planned. The crosses stand for the name of rivers and ships, and towns, and fields, that the glandelinians burned, b flooded, or flew up. The sums are the scoundrels share of the disasters, and you see where he feared identifications or accusations, he added something clearer. God help poor Calverinia believe me, there is danger for us all, and the whole pup population."

"Right"said Dolores."See what is is for our side towar with such a foe as Glandelinia."Right. and the amount he was paid to keep silent on these disasters as far as he knew them increased you see as he rose in rank. This shows though of course he had nothing to do with the disasters, and whether he knows much about them or not, Heidi Hyletze is the most dangerous of all Glandelinia. To him Glandelinia loks for the winning of the war, and the capture of the cities of Dorothy Gale, and Angelinia Agathia."

There was little else in the volume but a few bearings of places around Angelinia Agathia notedhin the blank leaves toward the end.

"Dangerous Glandelinia"cried Minnie and Hattie wormsam together."

Glandelinia isn't the nation to be trifled with. What say you Heidi."

"You told the truth."

"And now "said Gertrude for the other."

"Other waht!" asked Angeline Rae.

"Why the smaller book."

They looked through it, as it was a dairy, but it contained nothing but Hyletzes private not a notes about his "sweetheart."

"So he has a sweetheart."cried the girls. "I wonder if she is like him."

"And now for the third."said Dolores herself.

The large yellow paper had been sealed in eight places with a thible and melted copper by way of seal. Dolores had to remelt them over the candle night before she could open the seals, wit which she done with great care, of course burning her fingers a trifle, and there fell out the map of Calverinia with latitude and longitude,, soundings, showing of cities, mouths of rivers and hills, and bays, and inlets, and every particular that would

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be needed to show a map of a big country.

It was the full entire map of Calverinia, and even the sites of the biggest cities, like Abbiesnn, and so forth were shown.There were several markings of a general form, and it evidently was a strange map, for it had been been printed by any company but had been drawn or traced.There were on the map three crosses of red ink----two on the north part of the map one in the southe southeast, and besides this last, in the same red ink, and in a small neat hand, very different fro Wyletzes tottery characters, these words;

"How Calverinia is to be devastated by Glandelin ia's plans." Over on the back the same hand had written this further information!!!!!!

"Abbiesnn, eighty nine miles southwest of Mt Calverine Volcano,b aring a point, to the N,of N.N.E.

River Haid, near WIS.E and by S.

Fxpl explosives set ten miles north of Croner.

The secret subways north of Abbiesnn, you can find them by the tru trend of the east Herdrude Hill, fourty miles northw-east of the mountain near Forest, with the grass on it.

The secret tunnels are easily found, N.point of northwest, bearing E. and a quarter N.

J.J.W....."

This was all, brief as it w was, and to Gertrude, Angelina Richee, and the others incomprehensible, it filled them nevertheless with delight.

"Girls, all of you."said Gertrude"Whatever this map is it is something of great importance.To morrow we start on the flood come what may.We'll spend or have any who can do it spend the night strengthening the raft, and placing railing around it, with gateways to make it more safer.In three weeks, maybe less we'll reach Emperor Vivians or some other army whatever it be.If we can and its easier and safer I'll make for my wholes army.We have favorable winds,, a q quick passage, and not the least s difficulty in finding the spot, and we'll find more clues through this map and have Glandelinia humbled."

"And Gertrude"said Penrod, I'll go with you till we reach general Hansons, and we'll all be acredist to the undertaking.There is onlyone thing I am afraid of."

"And what is that."cried the others.

"The Glandelinians could,persue us on boats."Replied Gertrude"so we'll have towork to night to arm our raft like a sort of battle ship, and have at the edges all our machine guns.We are not the only ones who know of this paper.The Glandelinians who attacked us to day--bold desperate rebels to be sure--and the whole Glandelinian army under Wyletzes and the general himself and more I dare say, are all one and all through thick and thin, bound to recover this map They know if it reaches any christian camp it'll sure expose Glandelinia some how or other.We must none of us be too quick in our work.Gertrude and Angeline Richee will stick together in the meanwhile, you Dolores take your sister, and others, and also Grandelinia, and the two Rae sisters, Glorinia, when to superintend the work on the raft, which the soldiers and boys will do under cover of darkness, and from first to last not one of us must breathe a word of what we have secured.."

"Gertrude"said Catherine Strathbrook"You are always right.We will all b as be as silent as the grave."

It was somewhat longer than even Gertrude had imagined or mention ed ere the raft was ready for the trip down the water, and none of her first plans yet couldbe carried out as intended, and several times during the night the Glandelinians had made an attack but without success..Gertrude had to go outexcuting to see whether the escape to the raft could be made safely and wisely without infer fe nce from the foe, Angeline Richee was hard at work seeing to the do doing of the rafts finishing touches, and Dolores too, and the two little girlscouts who had been wounded, Joan,and Jane were in a hospital tent under the charge of " any clorinia almost a prisoner, but full of dreams and themost charming ant c anticipations of strange pl ces and adventures. They brooded by the hour together over the map, all the details of which the two little girls had well remembered.Joan sitting up in bed, she and r approached Emperor Vivians away in her fancy, from every possible direction, she explored every acre of the floods sufr surface, she climbed a thousand times the volcano of Mt Calverine, and from the top enjoyed the sight of its boiling lavas below.

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Sometimes she imagined the region was thick with Glandelinian soldiers, with whom she helped her followers fight, sometimes full of dangerous cavalry scouts that hunted her and her followers, but in all her fancies, nothing occured to her so strange and tragic as their actual own adventures of the next past. So the hours of night passed on, and at the approach of morning morning there came a letter addressed to Angelinia Aronburg with this addition "To be opened, in the case of hi her absence, by Angelina Richee, or any of her more personal Girlscout officers..Gertrude at the tim was out superintending the finishing work on the raft, and Angelina Richee obeying this order, found the following important news;

"To the Christian camp under the girlscout leader Angelinia Aronburg,
Camp H.Near St
Gertrudes Orphan Asylum;
August the First,1913.
Dear Angelinia Aronburg,,,,!!!!"""""COME

"As I do not know whether you are still at St Gertrudes orphan Asylum, or moving on , I sent this note in double two places, in two separate sheets, via to general Vivienia's army, and St Gertrude's Orphan Asylum.Emperor Vivian's army is concentrated heavily upon St Mary's heights near Evangeline St Claire town and Creeks, between Red ariding Head Woods, and the Mic-Hollester.. Emperor Hanson also has come ro aid him, and he lies to the left at Costellic Junction.You never imagined a bieger christian army--any commander might be proud of it--fifty two million men in each.I got the good n w news through my friend, general Hinderkile, who had proved himself throughout the war the most surprising trump.The admirable fellow had worked in my interest, and so I may declare, did every other christian commander, immense ar ies are mobolizing northward, and a million men were securing the whole territory between the flood, fire, and all the way to Gedernine, and through the Evangeline St Claire regions to try and locate the Vivinn Girls, with instructions to shoot to kill without quarter those who have kidnaped them, or hinder the soldiers in their search..I also got the news of their passing through general Jack Evans who is l ading the search, and as soon as they find out who kidnapped the Vivian Girls, or what general of the foe ordered it, he'll never recieve quarter."

"Dolores"

"Dolores"said Angelina Richee, interrupting the letter,"General Vivian-in will l not like that, that is papa won't.The writer shouldn't have sent this letter in two sections to two different places at once."

"Who's a better right." almost crowded Dolores."A pretty how do do if any of our generals don't know how to sent letters in sepr ate sh eets without disaster I don't think.and b esides what harm will that do.Those letters were wireless telegraphed."

At that Angelina Richee gave up all attempt at commentary, and read straight on!!!!!-!

Jack Evans himself, and also Walter Starring discovered that the Vivian Girls were missing, and by the most admirable management not the great est numbers organized for the search, and all the Genini of the country is to aid.There is a class of men in our armies monstrously prejudiced against the Glandelinians.They go the length of declaring, that these Glandelinians would do anything for money and for their wicked cause, go through hell even if necessary, therefore it would be extremely dangerous to send men out to remain the Princesses, but none of them dare however to deny the merits of the search, and Evans doing hell to prevent him finding them. So far there was not a hitn hitch.The Gen ini to be sure--men members, and superiors, and what not--are most annoyingly fast to suit the one w of course, and it is Evans that is said to be troubling them.When I got back to Emperor Vivians army I wished to have a score of men good night riders and I had the worry of the duce itself to find so much as half a dozen, till the most remarkable stroke of fortune brought me the very men that I required to aid me too in having the Vivian Girls, my friends recovered.

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I was standing near one of the heavily field pieces --when by the great accident I fell in with one of the best members of the Gemini, "illiam Schleader.I do not remember having ever met him before, but I found he was one of the oldest members, Kentopen many branches of that Scale w; knew all the head members of the whole throughout the world, and was going to investigate why so many forest fires were racing.He had come down there in the trench there that morning, he said to inspect the first line battery.I was greatly surprised ---as you would have been too---and cut ofnure necessity, I urged him to lead a party in the effort to bring back the Vivian Girls safely.We He was willing to do so.Between Scholeder and myself we got together in a few days a company of the toughest old soldiers imaginable--not pretty to look at of course, but soldiers by their faces of the most brave and insomitable spirit.I declare we could easily bring them back if we find just where they are."r Schleader even got a number of the Gemini. I am in the most magnificent health and spirits, eating like a "Hog, sleeping like a tree, yet I shall never enjoy a moment till I hear from you, or see you once again.To the rescue of the Vivian Girls isour motto.Hang all Clendelinians we capture."It's the glory of our cause that has turned my head.So now dear Gertrude come post, do not lose a single hour, if you respect andlove me, your disguised sister.When you can get back toour lines, let Gr scedelinia no at once to see her parents at Calverine, and we hope and precise to have the Vivian Girls back before then and we'll all went in the work of in vestimating "Abbiemn". I forget to tell you, that Miss Jennie Turner by the way, is to send a strong body of troops with boats after you and your force .If you don't turn up by the end of August. General Clendelinia had resigned his command of the army he used to superintend, and took command of general Kinderninas army, who was with withdrawn and given a higher command her for only had as both are very competent men and needed for better troops.I forget to tell you that allour generals are men of substance, I know of my own knowledge that they all have fine experience.

If you can communicate with me
do so as soon as possible.
Good bye.
Your sister
in disguise.
You know who she is
as even in letters
I must not
reveal my identity.
Your sweet loving
sister."

Who can fancy the excitement into which that letter put Angeline, Riches, and the rest.Angeline especially was beside herself with flow, and if ever she despised any man it would be the Clendelinian generals themselves. It was yet very early in the morning, and before t k taking breakfast both she and Delores set out on horseback for the raft, and there she found the other girls in good spirits.The soldiers who had been at work, had repaired what needed repairing, a strong railing like fence had been constructed around the huge raft, a real floor had been put on it, and places had been made for the machine guns, and a protection sheild also constructed, everything ,more than was asked.It was even made"Sea worthy"so to say.Also they had selected a number of men among their foes to do the paddling this time.It was on seeing these men that Angeline Riches understood, for the first time the true situation. If she had thought up to that moments of the great adventures before her, not at all of the raft, and now at the sight of fourty men to do the paddling instead of the boys this time, Angeline Riches had her first attack of tears of gratitude. The officers too had selected men to do the paddling who were far from new at that work, and they were not slow to profit by them.The early morning passed, and thank Heaven there was a little sunshine for a while through the smoke haze in the sky, and after breakfast an inspection was made of the raft.One of Angeline Riches last thoughts was of the unfortunate spy. Angeline Riches said good bye to the refugees who thought it safer to remain near the lines, and then all prepared to move their provisions wagons and so forth onto the raft.N N ext moment the children were on it, and the raft was finally launched and under way before the enemy

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should come to make a general assault/. The women were in one boat sections and the horses were in provisioned stalls built on the raft. Despite the swift motion, and the warm morning air, and the noise of the waters, and the bumping of debris against the raft, Angeline Riches and also Gertrude must have dozed a great deal from the very first,(they not having slept all night) and then slept like a log for a long time, for when Gertrude was first awakened, at last, by something like a jab in the ribs, and she opened her eyes, she found that the raft was motionless being jammed in some wreckage floe, and that it was nearly noon.

"Where are we?"she asked.

"Only about a mile fromwhere we started Gertrude"said Grandelinia, for it was she who had awakened her."The men can't get the raft free yet."

The men quite a number had taken possition with long poles underneathe and backs at the forward part of the floe, were ing like mad, while one of the officers were superintending its.Gertrude walked to the side of the raft and saw beyond floating in the water, but either jammed or surrounding a great great multitude of ships and floating houses, boats, river schoolers, of all sizes and other debris, and the raft was in part of this jam.In being questioned the man said the jam came upon them, and they were unable to avoid it.

"Blast it."commanded Gertrude."Use some explosives if/easily a possible."We got to get through."

However the men were singing at their work.A squad of meddes with explosives.Though Gertrude had lived by the sea shore all her life before entering the army she had never seen so many men working,for as she was traveling on a dangerous flood she decided that it would be safer to try and tow the wreckage with the raft if possible. Maybe if she could have the men get the wreckage into motion it might be a safe guard instead of a hindrance.As Just then Penrod cameup all dressed in his best uniform, and he had a smile on his face, in and a copinal imitation of a emerald walk.

"Here we all are "he cried."Brave, the raft and Kennyth the is complete."

"Oh sir."cried one little girl scout"When will we get clear of this jam."

"Jam,"said Penrod."When we empty the bottles."

Everybody laughed at this remark, just as an explosive roar rended the air, and send a cloud of wreckage flying into the air.

The men had set off the blasts.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN.

POWDER AND ARMS. THE VOYAGE ON THE FLOOD CONTINUES.
UNEXPECTED NEWS.

WHEN Angeline, Richee had done breakfasting, with Gertrude, at the hour of ten that morning, some one gave Gertrude a note addressed to Dolores, and Gertrude sent it by a boyscout telling her, he s him he could easily find her by flooowing to the left of the huge uh huge raft, and keeping a bright outlook for a little yellow and purple stripped tent, with a large flag for a sign.The boy set off overjoyed at this opportunity to see more of the new forms of the raft, and the way the men were working to free the raft of the jam, and picked his way among the great crowd of boy and girlscouts, for the whole raft was now at its busiest, untill she fou he found the tent in question. It was a bright enough little place of resting for any one.The flag was an old one but clean, the opening of the tent had red curtains, the flood was slowly sanded.There was an open space on each side, and an opening on both, which made the tent pretty clear to see in.Those who were in the tent at the time were boyscouts, and the boysdcut asked one of them if he could see Miss Jennings.

"Which one?" asked the aide-de-camp.

"Dolores."he made answer.

As he was waiting for the boy to bring her, a girl demscut of a side room of the tent,and at a glance he recognized Angeline Jennings herself.Indeed she seemed to be in the most cheerful spirits, whistling as she moved about among the boys who were waiting for orders, with a merry slap on the shoulder or word for the more favoured of her friends. Now to tell the truth, from the very first mention of Angeline Jennings, for he had never seen her before he had taken a fear in his mind that she might prove to be a very severe girlscout officer, for she appeared to have a sort of proud haughty face, and very prim appearance.But the boy messenger plucked up courage at once, crossed the threshhold at a sign from the aide-decamp, and cut some Dolores herself, whom the boy knew, and he walked up to where she suddenly stood.

Miss Dolores Jennings , Mam."? the boybeskrd, holding out the note.

"Yes my lad"said she,"such is my name to be sure.And who are you scamp!" And then she saw the noti note from Gertrude, and she seemed to give something like a start.

"Oh"said she"quite loud, and offering her hand"I see.You are one ofour youngest boyscouts, pleased I am to see you."

And she took his hand in her firm grasp.

Just then one of the men ar at the far side of the raft rose suddenly and made for the edge. A girlscout by the name of Daisy Wentworth was close by him, and the man was heading for the edge of the raft in a moment.But his hurry had attracted the little boys notice, and he recognized him at a glance. It was a tallow faced man, wanting three fingers, who the boy had recognized trying to swipe fsomething from Gertrudes headquarters, but who had gotten away.

"Oh"cried the boy." Stop him.He's a spy."

"I don't care anything who he is."cried Angeline Jennings."But he has been doig something wrong on this raft.Hey some of you men run and catch him before he leaps into the water."

The man who were nearest to the flossing man started in pursuit.

"If he were a spy or not he shall not run off like that."cried Angeline Jennings.

"But he is that "Jeff looking"spy."cried one of the other girls running up.

"what cried Angeline Jennings"Who did you say he was.Jeff what?!"

Then some other girl teold of what he was ,one of the Glandelinian or International spies .That he was the leader of them.

"So!" cried Angeline Jennings. On our r aft.?How did he get on.Disguised as one of our soldiers no doubt.Ten of you men hurry, fire if necessary.One of those spies was he.Was that you talking with him George Gray?Step up here!"

The man she called George gray--an old gray haired soldier, came forward quickly.

"No sir"said Angeline Richee, very sternly"Did you ever see that spy before.!"

"No Miss Jennings I did not, my child."

"Did you not know his name!"

"No Miss Jennings."

"By Heaven, George it is good for you you did not, and yet I saw you talking with him." exclaimed the irate girlscout."If you have been mixed up with any of these dirty Glandelinian skunks, which calls us "Christian dogs" you would be arrested on the charge of being in league with him.And what was he saying to you.!"

"I don't know rightly Miss Jennings!"

"Don't know!"

"No Miss Jennings."

"You sure have som head on your shoulders, boh, I don't mean head, a round block of wood."cried Angeline Jennings."Don't know and he was talking to you.Perhaps you don't happen to rightly know who you was speaking to either perhaps.Come now.What was he t,l,talking of; what was he after.Pipe up you should know.What was it!"

"We was talking about the weather, forest fires, and why it don't rain." answered George."

"Is that so, and a mighty suitable thing.What do you know about rain.Get back to your place for a n mumbsk ull George."

And then as the soldier strolled back to his post, Angeline Jennings added to the little boy and her sister at the same time;

"He's quite an honest man, George is, only he's not all there I believe. And now"she ran on again, aloud, let's see The spy who looks like "Jeff in the Daily Yammies.No I don't know the name not me but I know his description. I have often, yes I've seen the spy.He is not a Glandelinian, but a foriegner and he works for Glandelinia's unholy cause.He used to come here with a taller person.I saw him at Emperor Vivians camp and he barely got away."

"That he may have a companion you may be sure."said Penrod coming up.I know the deser iption of his comrade too.He looks like "Matt."

"Ha dee."cried Angeline Jennings, now quite excited."Resemblance of "Matt and Jeff.Ah they look sharks, they do.If we run down this spy there will be news for Gertrude Angeline as she surely knows him.Our men are good runners few men run better than they do.They should run him down.He talked of forest fires and rain, did he? I'll give him plenty of forest fires and rain."

All the time she was jerking out these phrases, she was walking up and down the interior of the tent, slapping the table with her hand, and giving such a show of excitement and anger as would have con convinced ant one who knew her, that a spy wouldn't be safe in her hands.Dolores's suspicions were now entirely awakened on finding "Jeff" on the raft, and she watched others very narrowly.The men soon came back out of breath and confessed the spy had jumped into the water, and swam to the shore.

"You are great men letting him get away"screamed Angeline Jennings in a rage."A pretty how do do.What will Gertrude say.If he has taken anything- " and she immediately had every possession examined by every one she could muster, but fortunately nothing was missing.

"See here little boy"finally said Angeline Jennings,"This is going to be hard on us all now I believe.There's Gertrude, and Angeline Richee, .Here we have this scunfounded Italy like spy spying on our own raft.Here he is seen and makes a break to escape, and I and others unfortunately let him get the slip overcom us before my very eyes.Now scamp you must do us all a justice with the two leaders, or we'll be blamed all us of us leaders, and then she's arousad Angeline Richee is a fright.You are a good bright little lad I know, and I could see that when you first came in.Now here is my plan.If I had suspected him at first I'd have had him.But now he's gone."

"but the plan." asked the boy."

"Why report the truth with me.Indeed what a precious girlscout officer I am."Letting that skunk escape.you and me should get on well, as guards watching that a rabbit don't escape the field boy, for I'll take my stake that I should be rated as highclass dunce sitting on a six foot stool.But come now.This won't do.Duty is duty.I'll put on my cocked hait hat,and go with you scamp to Gertrudes, and report the affair.For mind you my boy it is serious, and none of us can tell what will happen next.But we got to stop this just the same."

As she walked along with the boy she made herself the most interesting companion to him, telling him about the different ships that were jammed in the flood debris, their rig, tonnage, and explaining the work that was going on--how some were dynamiting, others trying to break it loose, and so forth, and every now and then tell him some little anecdote of wreckage or workers or repeating something till he learned it perfectly.The boy began to see that here was one of the best of girlscout ir leaders, and not as haughty as

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she appeared, and that looks often is deciewing. When they got to the proper part of the raft, both Angeline Rishee, and Gertrude Angeline were standing together, finishing what was left of their breakfast. Angeline Jennings told her story from first to last, with a great deal of spirit, and the most perfect truth. "That is how it is and out didn't it sonny" she would say now and again to the boy, who always bore her entirelyout. The two girlscout leaders regretted that "Jeff had got away, but the four agreed there was nothing to be done, and after Angeline Jennings had been complimented, she took up her hat and departed.

"Every one on duty by eleven oclock" shouted Graceadelinia, after her.

"That I will be" cried the girl, as she mounted the higher part of the raft.

"Well Miss Rishee" said Gertrude, "I don't put much faith in any of our own discoveries,, as a general thing,,, but I will say this, ofall girlscout leaders, outside of Miss Turner, Angeline Jennings, and her littler sisi sister Dolores suits me fine."

"The two girls are perfect leaders." said Angeline Rishee.

"And now" added Gertrude. we might as well inspect the raft while we are jammed up here. Little Heidi may accompany us may she not?"

"To be sure she may." said Angeline. "Come Heidi, and we'll inspect the raft."

By this time the workers had managed to draw the raft a considerable way out of the wreckage jam. Then at last they got the raft more free. The girls however however heard something something grate underneath the raft, but it didn't sound bad and therefore were not worried. At last as Gertrude came to the on edge of the raft, they or she was met and saluted by Penrod, who seemed angry with everything going on, and was soon to tell the girl scout officers the reason.

"Well Penrod what have you to say?" asked Gertrude. "All well I hope, the raft is all "shipshape" and "seaworthy".

"Well Gertrude." said Penrod, "I know that I better speak plain, I suppose, even at the risk of offending you, and the others."

"And why Penrod?"

"I don't like this cruise on the flood at this critical time, I don't like the flood, I do not like the looks of things sometimes on board, and I don't like some of the new men. That is the short and the long of it."

"Perhaps Penrod, you don't like the new form of the raft!" inquired Angeline Rishee, very suspicious as Gertrude could see.

"I can't speak as to that Gertrude, I cannot make slighty remarks about the raft, having already seen her tried. It is a clever good makeshift for a raft, and no one yet in the world ever made one like it. Why it would easily stand a trip over the Oceans even in storm, more I can't say."

"Possibly Penrod, you may not like the second trip on the flood either being a little afraid of something amiss." said Gelorde.

But here Graceadelinia cut in.

"Wait, a minute. Wait a minute. We usee f giving such questions girls, as that will produce ill feeling or unnecessary suspicions. Penrod either has said too much or he has said too little and therefore I'm bound to say that we all require an explanation to his words, to find where our danger lies. You don't you say, like this cruise. Now why pr say?"

"We were all given concealed orders, to have this raft go where it should be directed." said Penrod. "So far so good. That is all right. But now I find that many boyscouts knows more about the situation than even I do. We are facing some unseen danger,. I don't Don't call that fair do you?"

"No" said Graceadelinia "I do not."

"Next" said Penrod, "I learn we are going to follow toard emperor Vivians lines, so we can expect the return of Violet-, and her sisters and help them investigate the cause of the Abbiesan disaster and its results---hear it from all of our followers mind you. Now such work, and this trip is tiskiish work ,I don't like these kinds of voyages on this flood on any account, and I don't like them above all wh when , they are supposed to be x strictly secret whom----(Begging your pardon, Girls) the secret had been told to a parrot which some of us brought on board here, and which is her's how we do not know."

A "A parrot.!" Asked the four girls in one breath.

"Yes, a talking, swearing, parrot!"

Gertrude and Angeline Rishee looked at each other queerly.

"Penrod" she said. "Are you trying to kid us, ?"

"No Miss Graceadelini a I'm not. I can readily produce the polly." and he did.

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The parrot began talking showing it really knew the secret, and even ended by some "beautiful words" that made the girls put their hands to their ears.

"Whose parrot is it?"

"None of us, claim to own it, not even the man. But it is here in the cage."

Again Gertrude and Angeline Rishee looked at each other.

"And the parrot has certainly a fine way of sp a speaking said the boy scout leader. "It'll seem as if we're Glandelinians instead of Christians. This darn b parrot has blabbed everything, and where DID It, get the information. It's my belief neither of you four girls know what you are about, but I'll tell you the way of it--life or death, and a close run, into hells inferno. There's dirty work on board."

"That's all clear, and I dare say, true enough." replied Gertrude herself. We take the risk, danger is as great on shore, but we are not so ignorant as you believe us. "Mr Jeff" the spy was on board, and got away. Angeline Jennings brought us the report. Maybe he left that parrot. But say you may you don't like some of the new men. Are you dreaming Penrod?"

"No I am not. Why do you ask that.?"

"Because we did not take any new men on board the raft.."

"Maybe you didn't Gertrude, but there are twenty more men than we usually have and I never saw them before."

"Are they not good men!"

"I don't like them Miss Aronburg." returned Penrod. "And I should think that we ought to have had the chosing of our own men if you go to that."

"But we girls brought no new men on the raft." persisted Gertrude beginning to get nervous. And you don't like them.!"

"I do not Gertrude. I believe they're good workers, but they don't not like our original Cavarly escorts."

"Do you mean that you are suspicious of them!" cried Angeline Rishee.

"No Angeline," replied Penrod, "only that they seem too familiar.

"Well now, and the short and long of it Penrod!" asked Gertrude. "Tell us what you want!"

"Well Girls, you are determined to go on this cruise over the flood to reach Evangeline St Claire."?

"Like a lion seeksoits prey." answered Graceadelin ia.

"Very good "said Penrod. "Then as you've heard me very patiently, saying things that I could not prove, hear me a few words more. The men are putting the munitions to the north of the raft. Now you've a good place besides each gun you have on the rafts enclosures, why not put them there!--first point you see. Then you are bringing eight hundred of your girl and boyscouts with you and they tell me they are to sleep in the wagons. Why not allow them their proper berths---second point."

"Put the munitions north on the raft, and have the scouts sleep in the wagons, you're mistaken" said Angeline Rishee. Say listen to me clearly Penrod. I want the real statement from you proper and with common sense. Do you think we are double crossed."

"I do."

"By whom!"

"The strange men."

"Any more!" asked Gertrude

"One more" said Penrod. "There's been too much blabbing already. Our purpose is known."

"Known far too much." agreed Graceadelinia.

"I'll tell you what I've heard myself" continued Penrod "That you Gertrude or Rishee have Mylotzes map of Calverinia, and there's strange marks on the map to show where the floods occured, and that Abbiesan lies---" and then he named thepositions and markings and everything on the map exactly.

"I not Gertrude never told that" said Angeline Rishee to a soul."

"Every one knows it girls." returned Penrod.

"Gertrude, itmust have been that spy who escaped Angeline Jennings" cried Dolores.

"I doesn't matter who it was now" replied Gertrude. "We are outwitted that is all there is to it.

"Well Girls," continued Penrod, I don't know who has this map, but I make it a point, it shall be kept secret even from me and all the rest. Otherwise I would ask you to give up this trip."

"I see" said Angeline Rishee. "You wish us for our sa e and all of us to keep this matter dark, and to make a garrison of the whole raft manned with

all our followers we known personally, provide with all the arms and ammunition on board, and pur th put the strangers back ashore.In other words you fear a disaster of some kind, or treachery from the strangers."

"My dear girls."said Penrod,"with no intention to take offense, I deny your right to put such suspicions in my mind.No boyscout or girl would be justified Gertrude in going to make such trips at all if he had ground enough to say that.As for the strangers I may have to believe them thoroughly honest capable and good workers, all the strangers may be for all I know.But as I am the leader of boyscouts, and you placed me head of this whole expedition I am responsible for the rafts safty, and the life of every girl, boy and man aboard of it.I see things going as I think not quite right.The flood is rough ter than usual, there's too much smoke ashore, and strangers whom I do not like on board the raft, and this parrot coming on board I know not how, who blabs the secret to the very air.And I ask you girls to take great precautions, or let us quit the trip.And that's all."

"Penrod"began Gertrude with a smile"did you ever hear the fable of the mountain and the little mouse which I once read."

"Yes I've read it a hundred times I believe."

"Well Penrod you'll excuse me if I dare say, but you remind me of that fable.When you came in here I'll stake my heart you meant more than this."

"Gertrude"said Penrod"You are a smart girl, and a great friend of mine. When I came in here, I meant to warn you.I had no thought that any one else would hear a word."

"No more I would."cried Dolores."Had I suspected this I've already sent those strange men to shore.As it is I have heard you, and with Gertrudes permission to shore they go immediately.I will do as Gertrude desires, for otherwise I think You are right, and it'll be the worse for the expedition if we don't"

"That as you please, Dolores"said Gertrude."You can do your duty."

And with that Penrod took his leave.

"Gertrude "said Angeline Richee,"Contrary to all my notions, I believe there is something suspicious about this."

"Suspicious if you like."cried Gertrude."Those new men go the first opportunity.I'll have them watched closely, and secretly, and the watchers will have orders, to arrest or shoot as necessity sees fit."

"Will anyway"said Doli dolores"We will see."

When they went to inspect the men had already begun to place the powders where Penrod suggested, some singing at their work, while Penrod and Jack Sanders stood by superintending.Gertrude walked up.

"Silence please"she said."Do singing.Do you want the enemy to hear us out here.What do you think?"

However the new arrangement was quite to her liking.The whole raft had been overhauled, as many berths as were scouts and soldiers had been made, and in as many tents.It had been originally meant that Penrod were to occupy the middle one.Gertrude and her officers already had theirs, and all were to sleep on turns.The whole crew was hard at work changing thingsover, when the last man or three came up to report and soon as he saw what was doing said

"Hey, hey, what's this.!"

"We are changing the munitions to better and handier places."answered one.

"Way good night"cried the officer"If we do we'll delay our trip."

"My orders "said Penrod"Confirmed by Gertrude and Miss Richee.

."All right, all right"answered the man, and saluting, he disappared at once to his respective plafe place.

"That's one of the strange men"said Dolores."

"That he is"said Penrod."Easy with that men, eady,---easy"he ran on to the fellows who were bringing up shells, and then Gertrude suddenly observing a man examining a machine gun"Here you stranger"she cried"Out of that. What are you doing spying.Off with you to the cook please, and get in some work. This is no recreation parlor."

And then as the stranger was hurrying off he heard her say quite loudly to Penrod"To shore they go to night, Pen. I'll have no strangers on my raft. I don't trust them."

And fortunately she did as she said, they were forced to get off, or be thrown off.

Indeed all that night as dee ared before every one had been in a great bustle getting all things stowed in their places.Gertrude and the girlscout officers had worked as good as any of the rest, and therefore this mornint already wi written about she was dog tired, when a little after breakfast and having had no sleep during the night, the signal corps sounded the bugles , and the raft had started out into the waters. Gertrude might have been

twice as weary, yet for the sak of making inx inspections which was necessary she could not let go the duty, and all was no new and interesting to her, the brief commands of her under officers----the shrill notes of the boyscout military whistles, andthe soldiers bustling to their places in the glimmer of the shaded lantrens on the raft.

"New Handsome bring us a new piece of artillery."cried one voice.

"The new one."cried another.

"The new one of course stupid." said Gertrude who was standing by. given now."

At that exciting moment this scene carried the girlscout officers back to her best time withis Conscentinian Arcnburgs army, andshe seemed to hear the voice of her Uncle piping in the chorus of some song she used to hear him sing.

Then the anchor was short up, soon it was lying on the edge of the huge raft, soon the paddlers began their work, and the land, and smoke pall to flit by on the opposite side, and before the girls could like down to snatch the few hours morning slumber which she had had, the raft had been on the voyage for th^t time untill it got stuck and held by the jam for half an hour.The raft proved to be a good one,made this time longer and stronger, big enough to hold an army of 45,000 men, and the paddlers absolutely understood their bu business and were capable men indeed.

But before they had traveled a day on the raft two or three things had ha p happened which are surprisingly worth mentioning.... One of the men who was an officer, probably through the lack of sunshine, and heat, and his hardships took sick in the mor i morning, and turned out even worse than anyone would have feared.He could have no further command among the men, and he had to take to bed.But that was by no means the worse of it, by noon he began to appar sometimes around the raft with hazy, eye, red cheeks, stuttering tongue and apparently other marks of drunkenness, though of course he was not drunk. Doctor Jones forced him to stay in bed.In the meantime the doctor could never make out what his ailment was.Toward afternoon he died. Another thing which was equally annoyying was none of the girls or boys could never makeout how they came to be in possession of the polly, which said nothing but words not worth repeating.That was the whole mystery of the raft.Watch every man as a person pleases, no one could do anything to solve it, and when they would ask any man who would be talking or monkeying with the polly, he would only laugh and deny solemnly that he could not account for it either.We was not only useless as a bird, but it was plain that the girls would have to get rid of it first rate, which finally they did by liberating it from the cage, and throwing i the cage into the water.

"Good riddiance."said Joy."We like to have pollys, of course but not one that'll blab our secrets and use such dreadful language."Well Gertrude,that saves us the trouble of killing it, as at first planned....."

According to the man who had died, the soldiers were without a leader, and it was necessary of course to advance one of the under officers.Colonel Jim was the best man among them, and though he kept his old title as colonel he served in a way as "general". Angeline Richee was a good guide, and her knowledge made her very useful, for she often was on watch, at certain days, and nights.and the Jennings sisters were careful, wily experienced girlscouts who could be trusted at a pinch with almost anything, and it must be known they still had their little prisoner Jack Saunders with them;and always under guard, for he had never yet gotten away,and never did... Dolores, her sister, Graceadlinia, and others of the officers were a great confidents of Gertrude and Angeline Richee. Angeline Richee however had queer ways.Aboard the raft, she usually did most of the cooking for the whole bunch, with helpmates and it was something to see her do the waiting also, and yeilding to every movement of the raft, get on with her work like someone safe ashore.Still more strange it was to see her when the weather was rough off shore and the flood was like a rough sea, cross the raft from one end to the others, when the others were afraid to move for fear of taking tumbles.She had a line or two rigged up to help her across the longest spaces, and she would hand over hand herself from one place to another, now using a long stick, now trailing it alongside as quickly as anyone could walk on straight sidewalks.

"She's no common girl."said Penrod to Gertrude."She has had good schooling as long as she had the chances to go, and can speak like a book when so minded--and brave,- d lions nothing alongside along side of Angeline Richee.I seen her grapple four unruly boys, and knock their heads together."

"Every one on the raft obeyed and respected her mostlyout of adoration and so on.She had a way of talking to each, and doing every body some particular service despite her commission.

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To Gertrude she was unwearicdly kind; and always glad to be with her on all occassions. Penrod often would tell Gertrude or Angeline Richee many things, and he would say again concerning Glandelinia";

"If anybodys ever seen anymore wickedness, it must be the devil himself. We have seen enough to turn ones blood cold.Before I came to general Vivians army I sailed with general Greatheart down the Norma Ran River.I have been at Vivian Wickey as you know, and at Malabar Run and other places and saw things that would make the devil scared.I was at the dishing up of the wrecked plate ships at the seg seige of Vivian Wickey.It's there where I learned what this war was going to like, and little wonder.I have smelt gunpowder since I came over here.War sure is no joke."

"It is awful "said Gertrude.

"Ah a dangerous country Glandelinia is,"Penrod said."You can't touch her and be mocked Gertrude.Since the war came Glandelinia's been swearing hell and destruction, and none the wiser as to the consequence."And Penrod touched his forehead with the solemn way he always had, that made Gertrude know he was the best of men.

In the mantime Penrod and Gertrude were still very suspicious as to what the outcome would be.Penrod made no fuss about the matter however, never hardly spoke to others unless he was spoken to, and then sharp, short, and dry, and not a word wasted.He declared or owned, that after all he seemed to have been wrong about the situation, that all of the soldier were as b brisk as he had wanted them to be, and all had behaved fairly well, and that it had been wisely done to force the strangers to go ashore.As for the r raft, he had taken a very great fancy to her indeed.But he would add nevertheless-"All I can say is we are far from Emperor Vivians army Gertrude, and I sure do not like this adventures."

Dolores at this would smile. That afternoon the waters of the flood was quite rough which finally proved the qualities of the big raft.Every soldier on board seemed well sentent, and indeed they surelymust have been hard to please if they had been otherwise, and some time it was Gertrudes fear there was never a company of soldiers so spoiled since she had seen service in the christian army.Frequent coffee was going on for the lease intention ,there was great meals prepared t for those who liked the best to eat, and always a big barrel of apples taken from some ruined town was st'n standing broached to the top for any one to help themselves who had a fancy.

And good sure did some of the barrel, for later on if h it had not been for th t that, no one on the raft should or would have had any note of warning and might all have perished by the hand of treachery .This seems how it came about. The raft after moving from nine in the morning till two in the afternoon had been driven up to get the wide winds of the shore, and the paddlers were running up for it with a bright outlook set for day and night, to watch proceedings on shore.It was about ten minutes to two or a little earlier by the largest hope when they hoped to sight a forestless part of the shore.The raft was heading a little tward the northwest, and a had a stra wteady breeze from the southeast, and a rough going on the waters of the flood. The raft rolled pretty steadily, dipping her edges sometimes with a wiff of spray.All was in the highest spiti spirits, because they believed they had gone a consi erable distance from the dangerous territory.Now just about ten to two, when all of Catherine Estrabrooks work was over, and she was on her way to her late dinner for she had not eaten since morning, she desired an apple to go by.She went tward where the apple barrel stood.The guards were all looking tward the shore.The man at the paddles were working with a will, and one of them was whistling gently to himself, and that was the only sound excepting the rush of the waters against the edges of the raft, n and the sighing of the wind.

As she was small and the apples had been cleaned up so that they were nearly gone she got bodily into the apple barrel to get one, but found there was scarce ten apples left, but sitting down there in the dark, what with the sounds of the waters,and rocking movement of the raft, she had either fallen asleep or was on the point of doing so, when a tall man sat down with quite a crash on and a bump close by.The barrel shook as if there was an earthquake as he leaned his shoulders against it, and unseen by him she jumped out, and hid behind a wagon when the man began to speak.It was a strange voice,, and before he had spoken a dozen or more words, she would not have them known herself for all the world for fear of spoiling her intention.At first she had desired to drawher pistols and march right upon him and his fellows and make them prisoners, but that then would not have altered the situation at all.Th r Therefore she stood behind the wagon near the barrle, listening and trembling

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in the extreme of fear, anger, and curiousity, for from these probably dozen words or so, she knew perfectly well, that the lives of all on board the raft depended upon her alone.

"No not I and in the least."said the man. "Angelenio was Captian, and he is a great resemblance to the Matt"we have seen in the Funnies of the Daily News. .I remember being in the battle of Cedarmine.I was in the hottest of it.The same deadly battle with the Christian dogs, I lost four fingers, and my comrade Pe ype Fewter lost his eyes, and a leg.He was a good master surgeon, that took off his crush crushed leg, but later h was hanged like a dog, for being caught spying within the National Lines.I belonged to general Robert Camps men, and he's a general believe me.It was general Robert Camp that brought us through that terrible battle at Hendrick Junction on that Cedarine Creek all safe, after the christian dogs scantor charge and retook their works, and I've seen a muck with all the red blood, and a battle had enough fit to sink a whole nation into a blood sea."

"Ah indeed"cried another voice, that of a younger man, and evidently full of admiration,"he was the flower of his division,general Robert Camp..."""

"General Emery Page was a man for a gen eral by all accounts too."said the first speaker."I never fought under him, but he was a good commander and now here I am on my account in a manner of speakings.I had been transfered by Manley to general Nyletzes army to learn what these gi l girlscouts on the raft are upto.Many told me its a risky job, but it ain't bad for a man like me, it's just like having money all safe in a bank.It ain't earning your vocation that does it, its doing the work you are sent to do. It was because one of our spies failed that we lost at Cedarmine Creek.Where's all Robert Camps cldeat troops now?I do not know.Where's general Brandon?Why most of us in Nyletzes army a now and glad to be there--been begging to be under him for a while.Ten of our officers have lost their sight in the battles , and they are still trying to work.Where are all our oldest friends now. Well they are dead, and gone.Our armies have been forced to steal,raid and cut down children, and almost starved at that, by thepowers while these christian dog armies eat like at home."

"Well it ain'tmuch use to try and recover that plan stolen by the dead christian spy, after all." said the younger man.

"It ain't no use for those fools who are afraid of little girls and boys just because they simply play with firearms---that nor nothing."said the first speaker."But now you look here, you are young you are, and you are as smart as any of these guttersnipes. I observed that when I met my eyes on you I saw a good soldier, and therefore I'll talk to you like a soldier".

"You may dear reader, imagine how Little Miss Estrabrook felt when she heard this abominable old rougue calling her and her followers "Guttersnipes". Uif it would have done any good, and not spoiled her plans, she would have shot hi, and the other dead from her place of concealment. Meantime he continued on little supposing that he was overheads overhead.

"If we could regain that map which belongs to Nyletze; we can be gentlemen of fortune.It might be a risky job, and we risk swinging, but we can go slow, and eat an and drink abo rd this raft as if we are some of the others, and we can make an easy haul and destroy them all.Now the most goes forour cause and a good fling for glandelinia, and then Glandelinia will have the upper hand.But that's not the course y lay now.We have to act slow, put it all toone side, and do everything to avoid suspision.I'm fifty six mark you, and once we are successful in frustrating this cruise of these heads, we can get commissions in earnest.Time enough though.If we succeed we can live easy.And then we can make ourselves as famous at those two "Butt and Parf" spies.Now to begin you'll ask me.Do as others did.Get b c back that map and sta satchel of things belonging to Nyletze."

"Well Colonel"said the other,"but all the things of unusual make is gone out of the satchel now, ain't it?If we fail to return everything we dare not showour faces in Nyletzes lines, after this."

"Why where, on earth, what do you suppose they might have done with them!" asked the first spokesman derisively.

"They ei either destroyed them or flung them away when the soldiers drove them from the camp yesterday morning." answered his companion.

"It can't be possible"said the other the first speaker who Estrabrook found whose name was Castellio Binks."But the map is more important and either that one called Gertrude Adelaidine, or Angeline Smithee or Hitchee, of Etchise or whatevervit is has the map in possession or did have .And the other things may still be in the same satchel.I've got a Glandelinian girlscout coming to meet me.I would tell you where, for I trust you, but it somehow would be suspected by these little christianmedogs."

"Well "said the other."but all the other things are gone, I can prove it. The girls kept the money, and the two books, and burned the other things up including the satchel.You daren't show your face in Mylatzes's army after this."

"Why where might you suppose the map is then?" asked the man dr derisively.

"The girl known as Angelina Richco, a daughter of the christian dog general Vivianin richco has it in her own possession."answered his companion. "she is only a little girl sir, but I'll stake you a bet of this whole rolo of money I'm showing you you'll never get it from her while she is alive."

"Time enough, time enough"said Angelonio.Ah but we must live easy in the meantime, never deny anything your heart desires.and how should we begin. Why one of us can somehow bri bribe her in giving it up.One of us can pretend we are a messenger sent by general Vivianin to get it."

"It were"said the big man"It were once upon a time to bribe persons. You cannot bribe those gutter snipes."

"And can you trust your own girlscouts" asked the other.

..."Like gentlemen of fortune."returned the big man."Very few trust very little among themselves, and right they are.But I h v have a way with me.When any one starts a blunder-one who knows me too, he won't be in the same world with me I'll tell you.There are many who know and fear general Isaac Heidi Mylatze, and also who fear his Confederates, Beppo Evans, Cassonia, and Mahuam Mic-whirther,,, but Mylatze is feared by all christian generals alike. He is great, and he is proud.He is able,and capable.He is a George Washington for our gun side. He has the best fighting army, agoing, the devil himself and all his hells legions,and the very angels together would be afraid to cope with the army under Isaac Mylatze.Well now I tell you, I'm not a boasting man, I do not seek glory, or honor or fame, and you have seen yourself how easy I keep my agents and secret service with me and about me, but when I was a Lieutenant, Mylatze was only a Lieutenant general.Now he is a General, the highest command of all, and equal with John Wesley. Ah you may be sure of your self in Mylatzes army, especially if we recover that map.It's a serious loss to him."

"Well I tell you now."replied the younger man."I didn't half a quarter like the job till I h ad this talk with you George, but there is my hand on it now."

."And a brave lad you are for a gardener, and smart too."answered the big spy, shaking hands so heartily, that all the wagon shook,"And a fine confederate for me which I never yet clapped my eyes on ."

By this time Catherine Estrabrook had bégun to understand the meanin g of their conversation. Theseware some secret spies looking for chances to regain the map, and they were neither more or less than a common pro fessional agent of the Glandelinians them more volunteer spies.But on this point she was soon to be relieved, for the big man giving a little whistle , a third man still taller and stourter and wearing the Angelinian uni- form strolled up, and sat down by the party.

"Hank Weavers square to it all."said the big man.

"Oh I know he's square."returned the voice of another man just then coming up."He is no fool, this young boy, though he is a foriegner.Thanks to us he learned our language so well, though being English.But look here,"he went on, "this is what I want to know, and right now, Bainsbury, how long are we going to take to try and get that map.I've had most enough of this darn raft, among the blasted christian dog kids, and that darn Angelinia Aren burg has hazed me long enough by soup neptune.She bawled me out to day for dropping a platter accidentally and on her head.I want to get that map I do.If whoever has it brings it to the christian lines, Glandelinia's hash is cooked."

"Israel standardine."said the bigger man,"The way you talk I do not believe your head is of much account, and never was.But I suppose you are able to hear, I'm sure, leastwise your ears are big enough like a fisher's.Now here's what I say, I'm command of this expedition for these maps, you'll wait patiently, you'll live hardup to my orders,and you'll speak carefully and not so loud and you'll keep in hiding, till I give the word, under- stand that my son."

"Well I do not say no do it."growled the tall lank man."What I say is when are we going to try to recover it?That is what I ask!"

"When by the christian dogs."cried the big man."Well now if you want to know, I'll give you anunderstanding when, and so forth.The last moment I can manage, and that's when.They are children, these scouts, here but I know them, as if they were my own, and if you think you can get that map right away, well go ahead, commit sucide.I'm game, and brave, and I'll dare hell, if necessary, but I do not believe in sucide.Here's a first rate

girlscou s girlscout leader, Angelinia Aldeheid Arenburg, calling for some reason or other herself as Gertrude Angeline, who is in charge of the whole expedition.Here's this guide, and also another chief girlscout General, and one of the two has the map--I do not know who it is do I.No more do you. Young a s they are they are more dan er dangerous than soldiers. Well then I mean that we will have to do something desperate, but we'll have to watch and see which of these girls has it, where she places it, and then one of us will be able to get hold of it by Neptune.Then we'll see.But listen we can never get it by force.There are too many for us, we are too far from the Glande linian army, and there are too many of them for us.If I was sure of you all, three of you cardgners, and serving in the army as sightseers mostly and for adventure I'd have Angelinia Arenburg move navigate us half way down to the middle of the flood, but closest to shore before I struck."

"Why we are all good raftsmen aboard here, I should think." said the younger lad.

"We are all amateurs you mean." snapped the big man."We can steer a course, but who's to set one, on this dangerous torrent. Crazy it is who ever made this damn flood.That is what all you men split on first and last.If I had my way,and Mylatze would allow me, I'd have a force of troops on shore with long range guns , and either force her and her officers to work the raft back to St Gertruden, or blow her whole crawout of the water.But I know the sort some of you are.I'll finish with em at the narrow neck of land up north, where a glandelinian battery has been placed in wait for their raft, as soon as we have possession of the map, and spity it is.But some of you are never happy untill you're drunk.Heavens name I could get heart sick to go with the like of some of you on this dangerous mission.Why didn't Mylatze try to get it himself.He knows these kids are dangerous."

"Easy, Barben"cried Israel."No one is going to double cross you."

"I didn't say they were, but one of you is liable to blunder.For spying work, how many spies have I seen fail in their work, and go to be hanged." cried the big man,"and all for this same hurry and hurry, and hurry. These are only children I tell you, but it's safer spying on vivinnias troops and officers.These kids are dangerous.You hear me.Understand?MAN GERMUT. Dem DANGEROUS. I have seen a thing or two of Abbiesinian boy and girlscouts, and I know.If you would only continue to lay your course, and keep to the wind- ward, you would secure the map, and for reward, you would soon be riding in carriages.But not you.I know you.You'll have your mouthful of brandy, and risk a good hanging.You don't know, these Jennings girls.They are the fibrcest of the whole lot."

"Everybody knew you were a professional, "said one of the others to the big man Binks"Or But there are others who could paddle and steer a raft as good as you can."

"Yes, and they like a bit of fun too"said Israel."They of course wasn't so foolish, but took their chances like brave companions, every one."

"So!" said Binks."Well and where are they all now.Pewter was that sort, and he died, exposing himself carelessly at Hendrick Addition during the Cedarmine Creek battle.Colonel Wenders was, and he died at the same battle.Ah they were good fighting men, only where are they now."

"In hell"said Catherine Estrabrook to herself.

"But!"asked another called James Catt"then do we try to capture that plan, wreck the raft, and what are we going to do with them all anyhow?"

"There's the man for me now."cried Binks admiringly."That's what I call business.Well what would you think?Put them all ashore like marooons? That would only expose ourselves to danger.Or cut them down with artillery fire like so much corn .That would have been Mylatzes way, or Robert Camps."

"Robert Camp was the man for that."said Richard."Dead christian dog kids don't bite."said he."Well many of our own comrades are dead now, and if ever rough men were in armies it was in Robert Camps."

"Right you are.""said Binks,"And rough, and ready.Mylatzes cavarly are "The rough riders.But mark you Here, I'm supposed to be an easy man--I'm quite the gentleman spy, but this time's it's serious.Duty is duty boys. I give you my vote---death, no quarter to these christian dogs on the raft.When I go through the region, on an advance I don't want none of these little christian devil hounds a coming home waltzing for like the devil at prayers. Otherwise our own hash is cooked.Wait is what I say, but when the time comes why let everything go ripping and snapping."

"Binks"cried them all"You are a man."

"You'll say so boys, when you see"said Binks."Only one thing I claim-- I claim Gertrude Angeline.I'll wring her head off of her body with these hands.Frank"he added, breaking off"Go get me a pail of watercut of that wagon there as I'm thirsty."

Who could fancy the excitement Catherine Estrabrook was in .She immediately fearing an attack if she was seen spying on them, drew her two pistols.She heard one of the men start to rise, and then suddenly some one seemingly stopp stopped him, and the voice of Weaver exclaimed;

"Oh hang the old water.Why should we drink that stuff.Let's hve a go of good strong wine."

"Weaver"said Binks?"I trust you."I've a good keg down in the wagon yonder. There's the key, you fill a pint bottle and bring it up."

Surprised as she was, Estrabrook could not help thinking to herself, that this must be unusual to find so much liquor in the raft. Weaver was gone only a short time, and during his absence another man spoke straight on in the big mans ear.It was but a few words or two that she could catch, and yet she gathered some important news, for besides other conversational words that tended to the samepurpose she heard"There are six of us aboard and not a soul knows it."When Weaver returned ,one after another of thevtrio took the pint bottle, and drank- one to Good luck to Glendelinia, another with a "Here's toMylatse, and success to him, and pim ka himself saying in a kind of song"Here's to all our armies, and generals andourselves."

Just then a sort of brightness fell upon them in on the raft, and looking up Catherine saw the sun trying to shine again through the smoke haze, and almost at the same time the voice of the lookout,.shouted-"More fire on shore ho.Keep off to starbard."

Although dear readers in this big story boys and men plas usual and pri ncipal parts, and during this great w r war encoun e encounters many terrible adventures, by land, sea, fire, water, and so forth,.in in the dre adful battles, the reason the story runs so much.with little girls in this warfare as being the actul heroines it is true that from many experiendes though women are braver than men, which is proven under any circumstances I go to show from putting little girls in this story as the real herdines, that little girls do and are brave enough for facts also to be able to play and show any amount of nerve and courage full equal or more so than boys and men and women who may take part in active warfare.

It has been known often from my own expriences I the aurthor that boys often do think and even say, which is a mistake, that girls are sissies, cowards, has no curage at all, will run from little snakes and spiders and mice, but I have myself seen many girls and women who were the opposite, and men who were more scared of mice.In moments of great peril women are to the full brave and more collected than the men.Indeed my own great and many experiences leads me to go even farther, an and to easily prove that among any sival or army population, whether untrained to arms or not, the average little girl herself can be cooler, and more courageous than the average person.whether man or woman.Of course little girls and women are or have been seen to be a little nervious about small matters, like being frightened at a mouse or at a spider, but not in l all cases, for I have known women who would even bare handed catch a mouse, and also in the presence of real danger, when shells are bursting in the battlefield, and shell fragmen s flying thickly they have been known to be standingout in the open field looking for wounded to be brought in, or for instance, what historian has not written good details and lengthy of the heroism of Red Cross N urses, and N uns or Sisters and other brave men.How about the play known as "The littlest Rebel." Was not she braver than the soldiers in that play. Therefore it is not only a great mistake to think women and little girls cowards because they are sometimes nervious over mere trifles, but an insult to them which is cowardly on the part of the men and boys. Innumerable cases can be easily traced in any history to prove that women and girls can upon occassion, fight either as couragerously or more courageously than men.Even Caesar found himself thatbthe women of the Old time roman tribees could and di d fight bravely side by side with the men, and the fierce Amazons of the King of Dahomey were more fi feared by the neighboring nations than any of his male soldiers.Almost every seige had its female herdines, and in the Dutch war for Freedom from spanish Rule the women at Sluys, and Har Haarlem proved them selves more than a match for the best and fiercest soldiers of spain.Above all in patient endurance of pain and suffering, and sorrow, all women were ar and are immeasureably superior to men, and women always made sacrifices that men would think of in horror.How.v Howevervit is strange to say but that in these countries I wt write about, girls and boys fear nothing, not even dangerous snakes, vicious rats, nor mice, deadly insects nor anything from not having wickedness in their characters.Of course I'll write and do write these things of so many heroines in this story because so many boys

simply because they are stronger than girls(not all however) do regard them unfortunately with a sort of contempt, and to fancy themselves, without the least justification, even sinfully, not only stronger but braver,and more courageous--in fact superior beings in every way, when in true fact, one boy, or man out of ten really was brave when it came to show his mettle.

"I have written to one of the guards to bring Master Jack Saunders to me."

This anno uncement was indeed likely a simple one, but it fell like a bomb shell in the midst of the party of girlscout officers at the early supper in the center of the slowly moving raft. The party consisted of all the highest girlscouts, except Jean, and Jane, who were still in bed at the doctors orders, and Scholefied Penrod.

Gertrude exclaimed"Why Penrod"in a tone of shocked surprise.Penrod was evidently prepared for, this, he had spoken in a somewha , nervous and angry tone, but with even a decision that was even quite unusual to him.He had finished his last piece of bread, and emptied his last cup of coffee before making the announcement, and he nowpushed back his chair, rose to his feet, and said, his face ugly like a thundercloud;"Yes,I have asked to him him brought to my h headquarters for some time under guard, and I suppose that as master of this expedition, I am at liberty to do this, or otherwise our raft goes back to the Home.That boy I s I just this late afternoon saw talking long with a man whom I do not like,, who I am positively sure, I recog recognised, at any rate I would rather have no discussion on the subject.But if he is turning a ta traitor I'll, I'll----"

He could say no more, and without giving Gertrude or Angelin e Riches no time to reply, he walked hastily to the door of the tent and walked out. Gertrude and Angeline Riches gazed at each other in speechless astonishment. So accustomed were they to settle everything that took place in their Re-giments that this sudden announcement on the part of their friend fairly staggered them.Gertrude was the first to speak;

"This is terrible Angeline .To think that after all our efforts, that qe have treachry in our own mids t.What has Jack Saunders the cowardly our done now.But it's only what might be expoted,cafter he had deserted Jean. The cowardice and ingrati udo of som boyscouts is terrible.I won't stand for it. I'll have him shot, I'll--here have we for the last two years or more been devoting our cause to everything for the sake of our Country--not only a ting as scouts, but as little soldiers as well, seeing that our regiments did not fall victims to even spies,and enemy agents of the designing wicked Glendelinia, and preveningour troops of boys and girls from indulging into all sorts of foolish tastes, and bring t bringing themselves to ruin, and now you see, we have enemies in our midst, and now Penrod has without saying a word right away to us forsed to have that boy coward brought to him for quest ioning.It's monsterous Angeline. But he'd better look out.Penrod is dangerous I know it, and he won't take even mere trifles."

"It is monsterous." Angeline Riches repeated, with tears in our eyes."It's lyi like flying in the face of Providence Gertrude.We are hoodwinked in our trip.Some darn fool is trying to regain that map."

"It's flying into our faces." Gertrude replied sharply"and just at the present moment that is of more importance."To think that poor Penrodmust have been brooding over this, and making up his mind to watch that little coward like a hawk in this way for weeks perhaps, and he never said a no word to us upon the subject for fear we'll be upset.I wonder we didn't get the Vivian Girls to pass a degree for that coward right away.But if he is wgo ng going to be what Penrod suspects, I'll shoot the coward where he is."

"I never anyhow ever knew of any one doing such a shameful thing." Mary Standk said much shocked.shocked."Og cour se we should have turned him over to some propert proper aurthority immediately.A boy deserting a little girlin time of danger.Mostly men would go through hell to rescue a woman " She screamed the last words.

"I should not have left him here in the camp so long under guard."Gertrude said firmly"It's a wonder he did not escape us.If he des now, Penrod would hold us responsible.Our duty will be to convene at the questioning.You know we have been uneasy ever since that boy desested Jean.such a thing concerning poor little Jean has been pitiable, and we have always believed it has been that l alone which has caused all the force to not so uch as give Saunders a pleasant look or to eve even pay decent courtsey to any of the girls who may pity the coward, and who have been always watchful. Jack has literally draggdour hearts into the dust flying into our faces as it were.And Now Penrod is suspicious of him up to something very unusual.If Penrod finds that up to be true, Jacks hash is cooked.I have had an idea for some little time that Penrod has had something on his mind, and several time

he had been more nervois and fidgety th n than usua than usual and has seemed to be on the point of s y saying something;and then changed his mind. No wonder he was ashamed to even look any one in the face, when he was medist ing such a desperate step as this.That coward will place all our lives in danger.The foolishness of such a boy is something shocking.Jack better be carefu l.He was scolded once before when caught speaking to a strange person whocwas never on the raft before."

It was not surprisingly strange that Schofield Penrods sudden assertion of the new sit a situation was a shock to all the girlscouts and their officers. These brave little girlscouts had so long been accustomed to have so many things going right that Penrods assertion of everything not so good came upon them like an eletric shock.The deaths of their girls and boyscouts already mentioned had been bad enough.Penrod general was of a gentle and yeilding disposition, and the girls had the complete managment of the raft and whole expedition, and it was natural they should continue in the same position. But Penrod was a slicker sluth, he was their "Roman Eagle", and being educated by his step father general Neldenia greathe art who had in his earlier days been a professional School Teacher he had learned much which even Gertrude knew very li tle.He was therefore a safevguard to her. A littl little before the battle of Cedernine, Penrod had wished to enter one of the general signal boyscout flag corps, but Violet, and her sisters had been so opp- osed to the diea idea, and had represented so strongly to him his young years, and his unfitness then to take part in the rough frightfully dangerous works of the Signal Corps and how comple e completely he would feblout of place in such work, that he had abaon abandoned the idea, and had for a time traveled with ther regiments taking further instruction from them, and his strange companion Radcliffe, his sisters being for the most part of the time with him two, Penrod having three sisters also in the army having come from Canda Canada with him.Soon Emperor vivian had ordered that Penrod be sent to try and bring Gertrudes party through the disaster sone ifpossible, as Penrod was as good a guide as Angeline Richee.The announcement of his being sent came like a thunderbolt upon his sisters, for it was a dangerous expedition, but as even Violet, and her sisters could not, and would not alter the command he went.His comrades did not like it but he went.When he came he showed Gertrude his commss commission papers, and no one had been unwise enough not offer any opposition to the work the boy assigned every one to.Now since Penrod was here unpleasant reports were set on foot, there were perilsunseen, which could not be easily understood or clearned up, but which scntinued to grow till they gave rise to serious circumstances. Gertrude thought that investigations might have set matters straight somhow , but anything attempted failed to come to hand, and so at last thin gs went from bad to worst, untill as we know already they were stuck at St Gertrudes home, and then were attacked and driven from there, and a final breaking off from shore altogether with still greater perils lurking unseen.'

Penrod had before this become convinced, that Glandelinian spies and agents had not alone been to blame for the matter, and that he had insome way or other not taken any mistaken view on the subject.Never had he once kept his eyes off Jack Saunders, and wondered why Guards allowed any one to go into his tent and speak with the prisoner.He knew by comments of such friends as wereintimate enough to speak, and the coolness of many others, that he was considered to have been not watchful enough himself.And this thought was a most distressing one, that he could be as responsible for what happened, as Gertrude or anyone else could have been, and he was deeply attatched to all his girl and boy scout friends, and had not he not been convinced that for some reason or other, something was amiss, he would have gone any lengths to heal the breach.When it seemed too late he could have bitterly regretted his own weakness in submitting to the work of everything else, and not of keeping a stricker watch on Saunders and those he happened to have the chance to talk with and felt a deep though silent resentment against Glandelinia for the share he was convinced that country had in causing all this trouble, but although he resented, he had then neither the will nor the firmness to do just then the proper things

At times he struggled feebly against it, and on two or three occassions while they had still been in the home, had suddenly gone on long distant scouting tours, and had not come back for a whole day.On one of these occassions he had notified both Gertrude and Angeline Richee by sending a courier with a note saying that he thought it would be for the happinesscof them all if they were to leave St Gertrudes OrphnOrphanage, and go down the waters on the raft till a more suitable place from fires was found.But upon his return he found things going on exactly as before, and Gertrude had spoken somewhat severely of the note he had written to her, saying that it

would haveim been impossible for them to have moved just then/.As Penrod was really fond of his girlscout leaders, who had spared no effort in making everything comfortable for him, and who allowed him to have his own way about commanding all the rest, he could not bring himself to repeat when face to face with them the opinion he had expressed in writing, though he could see the danger wasily enough. The girlscout leaders were really very anxious to see Penrod get the proper methods.Gertrude had given Angeline Richee as his best companion officer, for she was a girlscout leader, in her estimation fitted for him, and who would also have a feeling of gratitude tward them selves for their share in installing her as mistress of the whole expedition, and all the girlscout officers were quite ready to abdicate everything in her favor and to allow her to be the main guide.The failure in most efforts for them all was a source of grief to them all, and ones when Penrod had been slightly wounded, they had been worried deeply, for they were reallly att- atched to him,and believed they had in every way been working hard for his own benifit and happiness.

They had no shadow of regret for the part they had played in making investigations of fire swept St Gertrudes town.Having once convinced them selves that the situation wasmost critu critical, they had regarded it as an absolute duty to protect their whole force from the consequences of what they considered any ones blunder.Consequently for days, they had been in conversation among each other, and had been much agrieved at the want of success of their exped t expedition, and at the absolute suspicion which Penrod regarded everything.Before the spy came and died, there, every one had been seized with a vague dix disqui t, for they believed that something was "Rotten in denmark" and considered probable that the Gladelinians would try all possible to undoe undo what they tried hard to work through.

They knew too that Penrod didn't like Jack Saunders since his cowardly desertion of Jean Saunders. Fortunately he was no brothers of hers. This was the real cause of Penrods indifference of Saun ders, and considered it probable that he would do plenty to the coward before he reached the christ- ian lines.For a time however Penrod had never spoken of the subject, so far as they knew, did not make even the slightest effort to even speak to the boy.Gertrude knew that Penrod must despise him, and that he was utterly un- worthy of the company he was in.Although he occassionaly yeilded to the entreaties of the girls not to pay much attention to Jack, he nevertheless kept his eye on him.Wherever Penrod had gone his sole companion and friend was Jean Saunders who had been his adviser dui during his tours, and whom he had always been with to the secret delight of Gertrude, who had always considered that Je n Je n Jean would be his best friend.This had to some extent been the case in so far at least, that Jack Sanders, had endeavored to give him the habits of selfe reliance and independenence of thought, and had quietly striven against the influence that the dangers of treacher within the regiments, had upon his mind.It was not till after the attack on the Orphan Home and camp that everything had changed. Penrod had sought his friends advice in his troubles, and many had urged friends and comrades to try to induce Penrod to rouse himself and assert himself against anything coming that might not be to his liking.They saw that Penrod had been a little impatient at things, and a chance word showed that he nourished a feeling of resentment tward enemies hekmew nothing of, and he was nerving himself to the necess- ary effort to shake off their influense altogether, but could not do so.

Nothing short of this would suffice to establish his best efforts at that time for after a mere temporary assertion of warding he would never theless keep on the watch.

Penrod had been slow however wisely, for he thought that harm rather than good would be caused by untimely interference, and that as his influence would be sure to be suspected he might blunder.Such was the state of things on the raft, when its directors sudden announcement, that he was going to summon Saunderd Saunders for questioning, and the guard too for all that, had fallen like a bombshell upon Gertrude and Angelin e Richee.

The remarks of Penrod had caused almost as much surprise to all the other girlscout officers, as to the two main girlscout leadd leaders. Mary Stake Stanck also had recieved a surprise.she had re cieved something on condition only that no inquiry should be made as to the persons if identy.Mary had thankfully accepted the strange gift, which however had caused her intense wonderment and curiousity.So far she knew neither anyone on the raft had anything to do with this note and strange papers.she knew that far away Walter Starring had been most popular with his Regiments and at first she began to suspect was that some young christian officer, maybe her own father had sent it to her.Had she been all alone in the world, she would have been inclined to refuse to accept this aid from an unknown person

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but for the c u countrys sake and its cause, she felt it would be wrong to do so.The idea that such important papers might come from Walter Starring, Ned Perkins, or so forth had once or twice occured to her, only to be at once dismissed, for had she really believed, that it came from one of them, she could not even then accept it; as they were too honorable men to sacrifice so much for her.Ned Perkins, or Walter Starring had as she believed without cause done much for her, treated her as s if she was their owniy friend, and she considered this as an affair which made her even not worthy of their good friendship.she did love these two good boy officers, but she did not think of what she could have done at the time.At any rag rate she had no proofs whatever that either Starring, or Perkins had even at such a distance found the time to assist her in any way. Nevertheless the whole regiment of girlscouts were in a busy section of the country.and their raft garrison was a large one, and they always expected news from any source especially of what Mylette might be doing on his campaign tward Angelinia Agathia(or to the moon)

.Military and naval matters were the sole topics of conversation. It was not long after Penrods announcement, and supper was still in progress when the telegraph operator came in with a long note in his hand.

"Here is a strange and long note the telegraphed ticked off for you, Miss Aronburg, but it is best for you not to open it untill you are alone.We seem to be beset with enemies now, nand shall barely have time to get through with supper, and be there before night comes on."

"Your supper too is quite ready for you Rep Ralph.Do not be late.The eggs will be here before you have eaten your s sandwitches.However at your suggestion I won't open the letter untill I am alone with Miss Riches."

Ralph began to eat his supper, and Gertrude stretching out her hand, took the letter he had laid besides his own plate, and turning it over glanced at the direction to ascertain from which of her few correspondents it came.For a moment she looked puzzled, then with a little start, she laid it down beside her upturned plate.she had recognized some hand writing so familiar to her.

"What is it Gertrude?You looked quite startled!Who is it from?!!!"Asked Angelina Riches.

"It is from no one that you or others know." Angeline"said Gertrude,."I think it is from one of the Gemini, I have not heard from for some years.At any rate you will know, when we are alone."

"It's nothing unpleasant I hope Gertrude. Your color has quite gone, and you look downright pale."

"What should be the matter you silly girl."said Gertrude attempting to smile."What could there be unpleasant in a letter from an officer of general Consentinian Aronburgs army I have not heard from since I left there. for so long!There, there,gone go on with your supper.I expect you'll know it all when we are alone.And I hear that sooner or later a great battle is expected to be fought at Sanitary Creek."

"Yes I heard many guns not long ago Gertrude, and I suppose there has been a fight somewhere.Maybe a victory.I hope the armies will lick Mylette soon!"

"I hope the enemy don't come here!"said Ralph.

"Why do you hope not Ralph."!

"Why of course miss Aronburg, I don't want to be too close to them till I am old enough to have a share in the fighting."

"There will be plenty of time for you, Ralph."said Gertrude with a smile."The war is growing bad.But there every body is tru through with supper and its time for you to be off, you know the secret of this letter as you wrote it off from the ticker of the telegraph so be careful and tell no one of it."

"I won't said Ralph as he finished his supper and went off.

When Gertrude Angeline and Angeline Riches were alone, Gertrude took up th the letter, and turned it over several times before opening it.

She wondered to herself!!

"What could have Rads/i Radcliffe have written about after all these days of my absense.Gertrude Angeline was but about twelve years old now, and was a very beautiful girl, more beautiful too in her uniform ofpurple.A sudden thought sent a flush of color to her pretty face."

"Never"she said decidely."After I have been so far away so long, he could not suppose that now----" she stopped of all a sudden."I know I do like and respect him as a good boy should be suspected, but for what I know of Radcliffe especially I love him dearly, and it nearly breaks my heart, that he has to go on like this.Well Angeline let's see what he has to say for himself"and she broke u open the letter. She glanced through it quickly, and then r read it again but this time more carefully .

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Angeline Richee noticed that shelooked more pale this time, and her lips trembled as she laid down the letter.

"so"she said to herself in slow tone"It's to her after all I owe all this." and she looked around at all the doings and makes and contents of the raft"and I neveronce really suspected it.However I am glad now"she went on after a ps pause,"That I did not of course, for otherwise it would have been impossible for me of my followers to have made it, and how different the last two years have been.Poor sister.Poor Annie.Was to disguise as a boy to help me get my fathers and mothersmurderer.Hated glandelinia.Now I despise her and all that she is.Now if I was Emperor Vivian----and o so she reallly suffered too, and she has been helping me here even in secret all this time."

For fully half an hour, or alittlelonger, she sat without moving, her thoughts busi busily with the past; then she took up the letter, and re-read it several times. Then she rew read it aloud to Angeline Richee, and its contents were as follows...-

"Dear sister;

Indeed you without the slightest doubt will be greatly surprised, at seeing my hand writing, and your first impulse will be to jump up from your seat as you'll be so startled.But when you are through with this letter, you will do me, yourself, and the country a good turn by putting this letter into the fire..I am not writing to ask you to come back to Emperor vivians lines, for I am too well aware now from my own investigations and from the investigations of many others, that you or your followers will not for mo re than amonth ever have the chance to rejoin Emperor vivians lines.Your only chance is to get your Uncles army into communication and find som meant to go to him.For what glandelinia has done recently she has reallly forfeited all rights to th the worlds esteem and consideration. Believe me that I have seen millions suffering and still suffering for glandelinias fault, and that my own life is a ruin ed one..I attempt to make no excuses for glandelinia for what I have seen.I am conscious that while mostly glandelinias leaders too were to blame, glandelinia and her government issetof all, and that it is also to the weakness and will of some ofour Calverinian authorities, and lack of energy that the dreadful disasters were due.however all of this past and present need notinterest you little, as youknow asmuch of it as I do, but the fires is racing madly beyond your hope of getting to Emperor vivians lines by land, and by flood it is utterlyimpossible and you only risk your life, and the lives of all by trying it. You have too had your own sorrows, difficulties, and trials,, at which believe me, I sincerely grieved. And now to my object in writing you..Although still comparatively a young girl, two years younger than you, dear sister Gertrude, I have many of my own girl and boy scouts who have notmany days to live.They are badly injured burned or otherwise, in doing heroic deeps deeds, during the bloody battle of Ophelia.

Naturally then, I have turned my thoughts as to whom you should safely try to reach in your dangerously made journey northward.My friends are amply provided for, little San is is safe with us,, and therefore consider my self free to do as I choose.Rtens said there were traces of the Vivian Girls to be found, and he has gone to locate them himself.I have long fixed my thoughts upon having you communicate with general Concentinian Aronburg u our uncle.The whole thing dear sister, willyou not, I trust do as I wish.I have never thought of any girl scout but you who would do as you are doing now, you are facing a million unseen perils, and I hope you will not allow your just resentment against wicked glandelinia make you do anything rash or depriving you fr m rashness to making what atonement lies in yourpower for the cruel wrong glandelinia had done to poor Calverinia, and h r her sister states.

Were my regiment strong in health and numbers I can well imagine that I s u could do wonders, but knowing the strength of your own,and your big trooper escp escort, I w feel sure you will not do anything rash as I have done.I should like also to know what you're going to do to the girl deserter Jack Saunders.Would it be too much to ask you to sent a notice about it to Emperor vivian by telegraph as the Vivian Girls are not here to speak to so about it so that he can decide as to hispunishment.I have a double

motive, I say frankly in thus asking you to do this, and by no means for your safty do not allow him to escape. I should not be so foolish as to ask you to do this if I knew it would be of no use. Also I should like to know how Penrod is doing. Also would it be too much again to ask you to have him communicate to me, and ask him to try and meet me as soon as he can come through as I am greatly concerned about him. I wish him and little Jannie to come to like each other better than they ever have yet. I wish to have the chances to promote her into a girlscout, yet I should be glad of your advice first. When they were first seen they took a fancy to each other, and he could train her nicely for Jannie constantly is fain doing what she is asked to do. Whatever may be so in the present case I must leave in the hands of God but I should at any rate like to pave the way for such a good arrangement by bringing the young friends together so she too can have her proper training. Yet it would be best for either of them not to have the slightest idea what is in mymind for this would be almost certain defeat to my object and durpise to ruin Glandelinia would be nipped in the bud. Adele-de-Fob who is always guarding Janbie thought this la plan for me. If the proposal is agreeable to you, I hope that you will sent Penrod to me as soon as you can get through the hell through which you are striving to break, which I fancy must be something terrible by now. Also I think it will be as well, that he should not know of myintention as to my plans, the perils you are really risking, for it is better he should think that he will be doing the same as now, but at the same time there would be no harm in his knowing that it is probable he is badly needed here. This will make himbear better what other wise would be a cross in his work. But I leave this matter entirely in your hands. You know the boyscout leader as well as I do dear sister, and you therefore can just as good judge what would be best for him to know, and what to do. And now dear Angelinia if you will pardon the long delay in not having the chance to write to you, and as my message is almost too long already, but I had so much to say to you I will remain,

I remain,

Your affectionate sister,

Annie Aronburg/
Alias
Francis Radcliffe,
known by Glandelinians the
"RATTLESNAKE."

Indeed it was very characatic of Gertrude Angeline, that at the first reading of this letter, she thought rather of the writer and the strange bright prospects which her offer offered for her friend Penrod. She thought rather of Her sisters hard times and her work, while disguised as a boy, her love for him, her worry as h she faced so many unseen perils too, of the days of their playing together when they were younger, or their seperation because of the war Calverinia's rupture from Abbiesania, because of the cutting off by disaster, , than of the fact that she herself was facing so many perils in making the expedition down the flood with the raft. She had been solely hurt at the time and even after all these days and months it was a pleasure to her to know that the situation may not be as bad as she had sometimes thought it would be, a mere pretext for breaking through the obstacles, and that her sister still was safe, though so far away, and her sister cared for her more than ever, and had been the mysterious friend, whosekindness had so lightened poor little Jannie's care. Despite n any one knowing it, Adele-De-Fob and Rad cliff were the two best of companions, and in fact was Gertrudes third and youngest sister in disguise Annie.

"I didn't throw all precautions to the winds after all..." she said to herself, as with her eyes full of t a tears she stoodoutside the mens tent, and looked out at the flood, still full of floating debris. And s"and she too has been faithful to her cause all this time, and to think of my own safty constantly, while I had almost forgotten whether I wascon earth, and alive, or dead and in purgatory or hell wthe way things are out here, fire water, horror and what not. I ought to have known all the time, that she was actinig under the good influence of my uncle general Concentinian Aronburg, and of others, those of violet, and her sisters of course. I was always certained they too feared for me since I came to this spot---hated the thought of the

perils and hardships I was facing. I knew the influence Violet, and her sisters had over her, and over me too, it was they who made me what I am. Radcliffe has a strong will of her own -and no one can tell him what is not right. And now he is going to make little Jannie Francis Lillian a little girlscout, or at least somtyi something of that sort. And she wants Penrod to aid her in herpurpose. It's a grand thing for Jannie, for she is worth it for she had done a lot to earn it in her sacrifices for us."

Then she thought over the many days, she had been doing things for her in secret, and wondered what she should do about that. Finally being a sensible girl, she decided she could do nothing just now. Had she known it before, or learned the truth by other means, she would have refused absolutely to touch anything not sent right, but it indeed would be a poor return for the kind ness of others. She wished as she read the letter again, that her sister had a some chance to breast the flood, and come and see her. She should have liked to see her sister again, to have thanked her to have told her how grateful she felt for aid and care, andkindness, to have taken her in her arms once again.

But she had even exr expressed in the letter, that she would not be able with her raft and companies to ever get to Evangeline st Claire. She could read in the wording of the letter that the perils of flood and fire and nemesmy and the terrific battles raging every where day and night with the fury of the World War had principally deterred Radcliffe from making any attempt to see her, and could not go through the inferno seething all over the country. And had she been asked her opinion the day before she would doubt less have replieed to Penrod and her officers, that she could not have had any hopes of even expecting communications of anykind from Radcliffe, where as she now felt greatly aggrieved that there was such a seperation between her and her sister, because of the tide of war flood and fire.

"Of all faults that a country can have." she said to Angeline Richee pettishly "I do not think there is one so detestable as that of Glandelinia. Why couldn't the surthorities of Calverinia have foreseen that Glandelinia might be able to do something something like this, to make such disasters abominally. If that could have been I believe all this could have been averted. Now we cannot go, to Empror Vivians lines, it's impossible. Now how much shall I tell Penrod when he returns?"

"It's up to you." said Angeline Richee.

Gertrude again read the letter through.

"Penrod "she said when he came in to report before going to question Saunders "You remember that letter I got before you left this ebrly even - ing."?

"Yes I know Gertrude, the one that made you turn so white. You said to me and Angeline that it was sue that made you turn so white, though why a letter from some dear friend should upset any one, I can't make outuhless it was bad news about him. What was it about Gertrude?"

"Well my boy it contains both unpleasant, and pleasant news. Your best boyscout friend Radcliffe is the writer. He intends to help you on in your work if you turn out as he would like to see you, and how heknew you before you left. He wishes you to go be back to him as soon as we can get through this inferno."

"That sounds nice indeed, "Penrod said "and if he has got th the Vivian girls back it will be no more pleasant too."

"They have not yet yet returned, Penrod."

"That does not sound very cheerful Gertrude. "They missing yet. that's not so good."

"Well nevertheless it may be verylively for you Penrod to have some adven ture with us further, but you must put up with that. Radcliffe evidently means to be very kind to you since you are his dearest friend, and it will be of great advantage to you being with him again."

"Is ther there anything queer with him Gertrude "do you think?" We asked.

"Not that I know of but what I know of him Penrod for the sake ofour cause I must keep dark and secret till the ripe time comes. It is his wish. If he did be known it would be bad for those who ref revealed his secret. He's dangerous, and you know it."

"But what are you going to do with yourself Gertrude, when you are all alone in Concentinian Aronburgs army. I think he might as well have asked you to come too, instead of only me."

"We wouldlike it very well Penrod but to get there is impossible. We have a good luck if we can even survive our journey here."

"What army is Radcliffe in now Gertrude!!!!!!""

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"In general Greathearts command of Wensomes army.It is a well drilled army and only about a mile from Evangeline St Claire.But as I say you will find it a lively trip with us, but that you mustn't mind.It will be a very good thing for us all, and will be worth our while putting up with a little thrill for a time.As you know Radcliffe is one of the kindest boyscouts to all his followers, but I do not think you will like. some of his followers much until they know you.Certainly you will not unless they are a good deal changed, from what they were as I remember them.Still you must try to get on with th m as well as you can, and I dare say you will find some pleasant companions in all the girl and boyscout forces. I am sure you will do your best when I tell you that I am most anxious for many reasons that Radcliffe would like you to be back to him again."

"Of course I would like to be there, Gertrude; best of all, though I must say that the outlook is not, according to your description, and the description of the letter a very cheerful one; and I would a great deal rather have stayed in Candd Canada where I came from.But now it's too late and I must see this all through."

"We can't always do as we like Penrod, though that is a lesson you have as yet to learn.War is war you know and this is a terribleone.What day of the month did you say this is?"

"this is the fifth day of august.But I do hope Gertrude I may see something of my dearest friends again.Yet I'm afraid it is going to be a horrible experience altogether Gertrude.However I suppose it has to be done, as you say so Gertrude, though its hard breaking through hell like this.Radcliffe might as well have told us we are in the infernal regions, for it seems we are.One could haveput up it with it ever so much better.How long do you think it'll take us to run up to Conscentin-ian Aronburgs army?"

"When we can find communication with it, only then we'll know Penrod. I think that is the only chance."

Penrod groaned loudly.

"The very heavens may intend kindly"he said"but I wish we had the power to work miracles.It may be a year before we'll find Conbentinian Aronburg. Might as well go back to the home, or rejoin Avidnia and fight it out with Mylitta."

"You think so now."Gertrude said with a smile."You won't think so when you are in his army."

"I dare say I shall not think so Gertrude."Said Penrod brightening a little."Anyhow if Radcliffe takes it into his head to jorcing us at general Aronburgs army, it will take me off of your hands, and I shall not be always feeling that I am always needing your assistance too.Alright Gertrude.I think I can promise that I will be on my best efforts, and will try hard to bring you all safely through this dangerous trip.I wish I had Walter Starring with me.Two fellows can get on anywhere."

"I should have verylittle hope of you making a goodimpression if you had Walter Starring with you."said Gertrude smiling."I can believe in your good successhuccess while you are alone, but I should have no hope whatever of you if you and he were together.It would be extremely dangerous to you both."

"But how are we to get through!Gertrude!""It seems such a tremendous dangerous trip way from here down the flood; and not knowing where his army is."

"I have not thought anything about it yet Penrod, but probably Radcliffe will give some instructions as to our journey, when he hears from me how we stand in our situation."

GE RTRUDES COUNCIL OF WAR.
SOMETHING OF A DANGEROUS COUNTRY VISIT.
EXCITING ADVENTURE ON SHORE.
THEIR RAFT IS RUN DOWN.THE RESULT....
THE FIRST BLOW.

As Eastrabrook heard the cry of the watch there was a great feet acrosss the raft.She could hear the girls and boyscouts tumbling frombtheir own quarters, and she slipped instantly from her own hiding place, dived behind the fore-sail, made a double inward thro stern of the raftde bart, and came out upon the open portion in time to join Dolores Mis-wollester, and Heidi in the rush for the eastern edge of the raft.There all on board a except the other girlscout officers were already congregated,.Gertrude and her officers were at their mess.A belt of smoke had a lifted almost simultaneous simultaneously with the appearance of the danger.Away to the far south east of them they saw two long low forested Hills about a couple of Miles apart all covered with clouds of smoke, and rising behindone of them was a long shaft of dazzling flame.All three seemed smothered in smoke.So much Eastrabrook saw, almost in a dream, for she had not recovered from her hor horrid fear of a minute or two before.

And then (the time after Gertrude read the long lester later) she heard the voice of Gertrude;

"Hey,hey what are you all doing on the edge of the raft in such a mob. Come clear awa y.Do you want to go careening into the water."

Penrod also came out issueing orders.The raft was moved a couple of points further frombthe shore, two more sails weeput up and it now sailed a course that would just clear the flaming shore on the north bend.

"And now all of you."said Penrod,when all was adjusted home."Has any of you ever seen that part of land before; and know where it leads to?"

"I have Gertrude." said Jack ganders. "I have lived there when my mother did not go to the city."

"What course does that land go!"

"Tward Seppo Lansin, and Big Girl Khool via Evangeline St Claire."

"The anchorage is on the extreme northeast; behind that islet, I fancy!" asked Penrod.

"Yes sir, but it is not an island e xcept you wish to call it that be causeof the flood.It's a goodplace to go for anypurpose of resisting a foe if we are persued.That hill all smoking is called Turpo Forest Hill, there are three hills all forested running in a row northeastward.But the main and big one, with the biggest cloud of semoke smoke on it--is called Turpo Hill by reason of a Turpentine forest that is on its summit and slopes, and sir if the fires hit it, there'll be some blaze."

"Hang the fires."said Penrod."I have a land chart here.See if that's the place to anchor.We can risk traveling on the flood at night!"

Jack ganders ey eyes seemed to pop out of his head,as he took the chart .This was not the map they had found in the spys satchel however, but an accurate copy of this stretch of land outside of the flood zone, complete in all things, naand, and heights of hills, names of towns, soundings, and so forth. Harp as must have been Jacks surprise, he had the strength of mind to hide it.

"Yes i sir." said the boyscout"This is the spot to be sure, and very prettily and excellently drawn out.Who might have done that I wonder!"He looked at Dolores, but she shook her head."I guess no one here, and others are too ignorant whe said.

"Never mind, here it is "continued jack" "We could call this "Our anchor age.There's a strong current of the flood running alon g tward the southwest and then we away tward the straight south.Might you was sir to haul the raft and keep the weather off the shore; otherwise we'd have run chances with the heat and fury of that blaze.Leastways, if such was your intention as to enter and careen, and there is no better place for that in those waters."

"Thank you Jack."said Penrod."I'll ask you some more later on, to give us a help.You may go.I must have an interview with Jack Saunders the coward now..."""

Estrabrook was surprised at the coolness and knowledge with which Jack awo avowed his knowledge of the shore, and she can owi she was half frightened when she saw a strange man pass close to her and disappear. This man of course she felt sure did not know, that she had overh ard his council from behind the wagon, and yet had by this time taken much a horror of his cruelty, duplicity and power t that she could not scarce conceal a shudder as he passed her so closely. Upon this moment Jack Sanders laid his hand upon her arm, and then drew her to him in a one arm embrace and said:

"Ah this is a sweet spot this part of the land---a sweet spot for us little girls and boys to get ashore on, for our nights rest. Before turning in we'll all bathe. Why it makes me think of home again. I was going to forget that I once lived there. It's pleasant to be a young boy. When you want a bit of exploring you just as ask Miss Richee or me, and we'll go."

He then clapped her on the shoulder in the friendliest way, and was going away, when she revealed to him her discovery.

"Get Gertrude or Penrod quick" he said. "Don't allow a moment to be wasted. Come I'll lead the way."

Penrod, Gertrude, Angeline Richee, and th e two Jennings girls, were talking together on the quarter deck about Jack the coward, and anxious as Estrabrook was to tell them her story, and warn them, she did not dare interrupt them opening, ly for fear others whom she could not trust may be within hearing. While she was still casting about in her thoughts to find some possible excuse, Dolores called her to her side. She had left her rosary below, and being a devoted client of the Rosary, had meant that Estrabrook should fetch it, so she could say a decade, but as soon as she and Jack were near enough to speak and not to be oben overheard; Jack nudged her in the back to encourage her to go i ahead, and making a strange cough that she understood to mean all was clear, and she broke out immediately: "Dolores let me speak to you a minute."

"What is it" she asked. Are you ill. You look like you mean a ghost."

"No it's not that" she answered looking at Jack, who nidged her again. "Get Penrod, Gertrude, and all our officers together in our Mess tent from whence Gertrude just left, and then make some pretense to as nd for me to bring something. I have terrible, frightful news, that concerns our safty."

Dolores changed countenance a little, but the next moment she was master of herself.

"Thank you Catherine." said she quite loudly, "that was all I wanted to know" as if she had asked her a question. And with that she turned on her heel and rejoined the other girls. They spoke together for a few minutes, Gertrude recalled Penrod who was going to interview Saunders, and though none of them started, or raised their voices; or so much as turned to look at Catherine, it was plain enough that Dolores Mic-Hollester had communicated Catherines request, for the next thing she heard was Gertrude giving orders to Winnie Saunders, and all the girls and boys were in rank formation on the raft.

"Attention Companies" she said. "I've a w word to say to you. This land we have sighted is the place we'll have to select as we cannot risk traveling on a raft at night, Jack Sanders, being a very open handed boyscout, as we all know has just asked me a sword or two; and as I was able to tell him that every boy or girl has done their duty; as I never asked to see it done better, why I and all my officers are going into our Mess house tent to drink luck to our expedition. I'll tell you what I think of this, I think it is hand some. And if you think as I do, you'll give a good cheer for the boyscout that does it."

The cheer followed- -that was indeed a matter of course, but it ran out so full and hearty even from the men that any one could have confessed who knew of Catherines news that she could hardly believe that there were some men among them plotting the destruction of all on board the raft, in order to regain Mylstons lost plans and map.

"One more cheer for the whole expedition." cried Angeline Richese, when the first had subsided.

Anemore louder than the first came the second cheer. On the top of that all the girlscout officers went back into the mess tent, and not long after one of the girlscouts came to report to Catherine Estrabrook that she was wanted in the mess tent. She found them all seated round the big table, a bottle of milk and some bread and rai sins raisins before them, and Penrod reading away on apiece of paper, and that Catherine indeed knew was a sign that she was agitated. The entrance to the Mess tent was left open for it was unusually warm that evening, and you could see the glow of the the distant fires si shining behins on the wake of the slowly moving raft....

"Now C" Catherine" said Penrod himself, after she had shouted them, "You said you have something to say. So speak up. What is it?"

Catherine did as she was asked,,, and in as short a detail as she could make make it, she told the whole detail of the conversation of the strange men, whom she suspected as Glandelinian spies. Of course no one interrupted her untill she had told the last word, nor did any of the girl or boyscout officers make so much as the slightest movement, but they nevertheless kept their eyes upon the girls face from first to last....

"Catherine." said Gertrude,, "Take a seat."

And she sat down at the table beside them; and Gertrude poured out a glass of milk filled her h ands with the mainty raisins, and all of the child officerkone after the other, and each with a bow, and the signs of the Cross, invoked God's intercession upon the expedition; and drank Health to Catherine, and their servidss to her; for her luck and boldness.

"Now Gertrude" said Penrod "I own myself an ass for not expecting this sooner. But you see you know I was right as to my suspicions; and yet I await your orders."

"You are no more of an ass than I am Penrod." returned Goitrude. I myse myself never heard of it or ever saw it yet of a crew or company of our christian cavarly that had any members that were emicdemies in disguise but what showed signs before, for any man or person that had an eye in his head to see the mischief and take steps accordingly. But this situation" he she added beats me. How are we to capture the spies."

"Impossible." said Penrod. "No one knows them; and they may have slipped away by now. I heard some splashing in the water recently."

"Penrod" said Angeline Richee, "With your permission, that" the Matt and fatt spies I'll be bound. How about Jack Saunders. When are you going to question him. You know he is a very remarkable coward and may tell you anything he heard from his conversation to save his own skin."

"He'll look remarkably well for standing before a firing squad." returned Penrod. "But this kind of talk we are having don't lead to anything I want anything. I see three or four points, and with Gertrudes permission I'll b speak them.

"You are the director of this expedition. It is for you to speak" said Gertrude grandly."

"First point" began Penrod. "We must go on to our landing point as we suggested, because under no conditions now we cannot turn back. If I give the word to go back, and we reached the region of St Gertrudes, there might be a whole force of glande indians lying in wait for us. Second point; we have plenty of time before us---at least untill we reached the land pointed out by Jack Sanders. Third point, we have 10,000 faithful cavalry men; all these good fierce fighting Abyssinkilians. Now girls, and also you boys, its got to come to an awful conflict sooner or later, and therefore what I propose is to take time while we have time, and con to a conflict some fine morning or afternoon when they least expect it. We can count on all of our boys and girls Gertrude!"

"As upon myself." declared Gertrude. "Everyone of us has good shots, and we have plenty of ammunition, grenades and so forth."

"10,500" reckoned Penrod, ourselves make the five hundred hundred, and 10,000 countingon horsemen, here. Now about our smaller machine guns."

"Most likely manned by our best bb s boys" said Angeline Richee, "Those we had picked us from capturing Glandelinian si outside encampments."

"Why" replied Mary Stanck, "My girls scouted three!"

"I did think once I could have trusted all strangers." added Penrod.

"And to think that those two International Professional Spies, Mrs. of Italy and pain." broke out Dolores Mic-Hollester. "Girls, girls, I could find it in my heart to blow the raft up, and abandon our expedition."

"Well little Ladies, and Little Gentlemen of our Blessed Lord and Country, " said Penrod, "The best that I can say is not much. We might be cautious if you please, and every one must keep a bright outlook. It's trying on us all I know, and it is Our Cross, but we must bear it as Our Lord bore His. It would be pleasanter to come to a spirited fight right away. But there's no help for it till we know our situation, and our positions and their strength strength. We just have to make mark our own time, that's my view...."

"Little Catherine here." said Mary Stanck, "can help us more than anyone. The men not even strangers are not severe with her, and she is an attractive girl even though not at all pretty."

"Catherine, I put prodigious faith in you now." added the others.

For a moment Catherine began to feel b pretty desperate at this, for she felt altogether helpless, and yet by an odd train of circumstances, and

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so forth it was through her prayers to the Blessed Virgin and our Lord, that Catharine was able to bring them all through safely though with some severe loss in the conflicts and flight. In the meantime they ... still talked, holding a long ... council, there were ... all of the officers present this time, even Jean and Jane were up and around this time, and so they were sure they could do something to frustrate the Glandelinians.

"If it ... come to necessity," said Gertrude. "I'll destroy the map the ... left. Then Mylstes will never recover it. I know it by heart by now anyway, ... could make away with it, and destroy all, and yet make a new one in a jiffy."

"Are you going to do as you plan by answering Radcliffes letter?" asked Penrod. "I'm going now to see if I can bring anything out of Jack Saunders and I'll let you know the result."

"I might as well....." said Gertrude.

When Penrod alone had gone, Gertrude ga e the order for "At Rest" for the others, and started to answer the letter by the telegraph--by no means an easy task under such situations. She wrote it with an air of desperation, and it was as follows;

"To Emperor Vivians army;
My dear friend Radcliffe;

It is very difficult to answer such a letter as you have sent me--or at least to write of how one feels without writing too much on the subject subject, and also to express the unusual gratitude with which one is full to overflowing but of which one feels that you my dear sister do not feel a desire the expression. First a word or two as to our plight ... that it is irreparable, why should I not write freely. We girl and boyscouts are more the victims of the enemy than the soldiers are. Mildred, poor Mildred Maxwell, I believe you remember her does not believe we'll win and nothing will change her views. She believes we are the victims of a mistake. That we were misled into joining the army and fighting for a losing cause. I for a time foolishly resented the line she took, and now begin to doubt myself a cause that seems to me so easily shaken. Thus probably my pride is perhaps as much responsible for what is happening to us, as to what is happenin g to the christian armies further away. At any rate believe me or not that I have felt no such feelings as those with which anyone else may credit to our noble cause. Now that I know the truth, and the true situation, I can only regret that the lives of all our girl and boyscouts has been and still is so full of sorrows and hardships.

Next I must thank you, for your kindness in rendering us so much aid even though we are so far separated. Of these believe me, I never suspected that you were the one who was so good, and I ... do not need to mention how deeply I have been touched at finding at the hand to which I and my followers owe so much as those of my command. Of this I will say no more, as it is not necessary. I leave you however to picture my feelings and my gratitude, and make mentioned mention that we we'll strive to break through all obstacles to get to Emperor Vivians army and ask God and His Blessed Mother to help us. Also most warmly I thank you for you r intentions regarding your best boy friend Schlafield Penrod. He will be ready to meet you when we reach the christian lines. I suppose the best way for us is to go by flood, and by land when it is convenient. We are all very fon d of traveling on the waters of the flood, though we take no chances of doing it at night. Lastly dear Radcliffe believe me that the news and warning you have given me concerning the situation we are in, is all familiar to us, and I earnestly hope and trust that by God's help that we may be mistaken in this case, for if it is impossible for us to reach Emperor Vivians army, it's it impossible also to reach my Uncles army.

I remain,

....

Your grateful and affectionatesister,
Angelinia
Aronburg.....".

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Sometime minutes later after the questioning of Jack Saunders Penrod took his ... place on theoutside section of the raft to do night watching himself. As to the visits of the strange men as Estabrook had told, he anticipated no good from it whatever, but at the same time the journey toward the new piece of land though slow was delightful to him. He had never during his remembrance been further away than this from any christian army, and this trip for or to him down the flood on a raft was as important as a journey half over the whole country would be at the present time. In his pocket he carried the big map the Glandelinians were after on which Gertrude had carefully written down instructions as to what to do in case of necessity. Sewn up in thelinen of his coat were five important letters, so that in case the raft was stopped or overhauled by a great force of Glandelinian boatmen or any other misfortune happened to the raft and its crews, he would still be provided with the most important things. And also his head ought to ... have been equalled equally file filled with the advice Gertrude and others had given him as to what to do in case troublesome ... Next to him stood Jack Saunders who was on guard duty for several hours.

"I see in the Angelinia Agathia Times which I found somewhere" he said "Consentinian Aronburg is congregatio-congregating an enormous army. He's been working hard for nigh eighteen months and I know what manner of man he is. Why bless you Penrod if Mylstes was there to meet him in battle Mylstes would be sent flying like a cat before a dog, and Consentinian Aronburg would make a nice hold in Mylstes trousers. But Jack you are working overtime to day. Can't you get a little further along, and go to bed after we camp on the ground?"

"It seems to me I can't" Jack replied. "With all the excitement going on I do not feel like sleeping. It even takes all my appetite away."

"Well this is our sensation as scouts," Penrod said philosophically. "You may thank your stars, and thank God Himself that you or I or the rest of us are not worse off than we are now. Most of children who are not in the army though face greater perils than we do, knowing the nature of the enemy. But we can't have everything our own way not even in any army. That is what I told others, for I know many scouts who are always wanting their own way.......
I suppose you are going to ask for a furlough when we reach Emperor Vivians lines."

"No I am not. Not untill the war is over."

"Going to stay in the army as long as the war lasts you say???"

"Yes."

"That is a good brave lad," said Penrod said. "I was afraid you might only going to wait till we reach Emperor Vivians lines,,, and then you would go home for a while. Many boyscouts are really so unthoughtful of their cause and what they are fighting for, and seem to think as the girlscouts can do and should do all the scout work, and not have times off. I wish you would feel and get your hand in mypocket Jack as I am holding this big rifle and cannot set it down. I want to make sure I got Gertrudes note with me. Can you find it, it's in something like a pocket book somewhere."

With much difficulty, Jack found the pocket book mentioned, and thrusting in his hand was able toreassure him that he had the note allright.

"That's a comfort to me." Penrod said. "If one's mind isn't at ease one can't enjoy doing guard duty."

"I wish our trip was more at ease," Jack said. "Don't you think we could reach some part of the country where there are not so many enemies"

"We could try it." said Penrod, "but everything we'll have to leave in the hands of God. But Jack if you get that bottle over there and get me some fresh water I'll feel better."

Jack did as he was asked. He enjoyed the rapid motion, and the changing scene on the shore very much-but he was not sorry as when early evening was coming on-He saw ahead of him a duller mist, which Penrod told him was the smoke of camp fires on someportion of the shore. It was about six oclock in the later afternoon or early evening, when the raft came within easy sight of the distant land, where they were going to land. The guard who had received instructions from Gertrude, at once gave Penrod a signal, and Jack being tired, and sleepy was relieved and another placed in his stead. Cramped by his fourteen hours stand and work Jack had at first some diffi culty in going back to his own tent, but the stiffness soon wore off, and he reached his tent. The guard ushered him in, and Jack relieved him and had a new one put there. For a moment Jack felt a little forni forlorn, and won dered what he was going to do next after they all landed. But a minute later Heidi came up to him and at his bidding entered....

"Do you want to go to bed right away or do you want to wi wait till we land...?"she asked."I The guard should have notified me."

"I am afraid there is to much excitement."said Jack."However I will try to sleep before that if possible."

"I,ll try and make you some shift anyhow."

"I should be very much obliged if you can"Jack said."For I don't know anything about strange landing places, and I can wake up in case the re raft beaches."

"Oh might you be Jack Saunders?"

"No man.My name is Jack Sanders."

"Ah then Gertrude has reserved her own tent for you too night.Penrod said three days ago that something good may turn out for us after all.But didn't you have supper."?

"No No I didn't "said Jack."I didn't have time."

"I dare say you would like to have a wash first?"

"That I should." Jack replied, as he took off his boots.

In a few minutes he returned, and one of the girls direc ted him to the Mess Tent.In a short time a supper consisting of fish, taken from the water, a and a little milk was placed before him, as he detested coffee. Jack fell to vigoriously,and the care that had been bestowed by the rest in s securing things for his comfort, and ordering a late supper for him greatly raised them all in the boys estimation|| |and he began to look f94 forward with warmer anticipations than he had done before to those in the Regim ents when they had been so hostile to him for his carelessness of the past.As soon as he had finished he went off to bed, and in a few minutes was sound asleep.

Sleeping in the same tent with him were four other boyscouts who had seen twenty fours hours of service without a moments sleep, belonging as he knew to Penrods"Gang" They had, had a long trip before they had had the chances to come here.Yet they knew that the shore they were now heading for may be arendesvous of the foe, and the peril may be very great, but they were so tired they went to sleep just the same.All the rest of the troopers and girl and boyscouts were rather silent and little stuky at first as the cruise on water was nearly over for the day; but as the new portion of the shore came in sight they recovered their spirits, and man m ohined Pen rod greatly with their talk about the various prizes they had taken, and of the two recent sharp brushes with the glandelinians..Penrod too was not sorry that the land was he s hovering in sight.As it grew darker the boys amused with covered lantrons to help the girls to see their way about the moving raft, and as Penrod walked forward; a boyscout not knowing him in the dark asked||

"Are you Miss Riches.?"

"No I am not. But if you want to see her I'll direct you to her."

"Thank you.Are you Master Penrod!"

"That's my name "Penrod replied.

"We are about two miles off yet sir."said the boy.We might not reach there till about nine to night."

"Whatever suits you, suits me."answered Penrod.

Supper was already prepared for all the rest, but some of the sc u scouts and soldiers were too sleepy to eat.And many of them had made a good meal from their haversacks at about five oclock, and when they had finished they had resumed their work.Penrod being off duty by Gertrudes request took a stroll about the raft walked all aroundgvith eggen, took a good look at the faces of every man and saw that they were all familiar and not one a stranger, and therefore knew the strangers whom Mutrabrook had overheard had left the raft by swimming to shore.

"I generally drive this raft sher e shoreward myself." he reflected himself to himself."Some of these men the have been doing the paddling a o are pretty tired now.They have been working since five this morning. I wonder how far is it to that piece of land.The boy said two miles.I thought it ought to be a lot shorter but it is not, and its would bemore pleasanter for us to be able to land before dark, than drive there when already the whole for e is tired and sleepy already."

"Yes it would be more pleasant."said some lad who had overheard him and thought Penrod was speaking to him."The wate water however is very dirty, and I should.not like to at arive on a strange piece of land and at such times and so sleepy that I could scar e scarcely keep my eyes open espei especially as I hear these spies who escaped might bring a force of the enemy down upon us, and make the situation rather peculiar.

"Yes then it will be rather peculiar."Penrod said."The roadways are dif fieult to travel, the countryside not under water is all afire , and I should like not tearive in a strange piece of land , with my clothes either all covered with dirt mur mud or look as if they went through a city fire, and at the same time to be so sleepy that I can hardly keep my eyes open.I have heard also that Violet, and her sisters in what we do in facing dangers and unknown to use are rather particular."

"R ather isn't the word for it." another boy scout said|||"They are particular and no mistake..I don't believe other great girlscout heroines would notice whether we are all dirty or clean as longyas we cannot help our situation, but if there is a spect of dirt on our own uniforms,they are sure to observe it..Not that they are severe tyrinical Princesses, they are far from that, but for the good ofon health, and for the appearance of all their regiments they look after things, I can tell you pretty sharp. And I don't say either that it ain't as well as they do, for there is no commander that lets things go any old way.Cleanliness is diapo descsplin on the army Army.Emperor Vivian is a man King he is, but he is so busy that even his own daughters don't have the chance to see much of him, and he don't appear in command of anlyone army, and stay at it, but is in command here and there.He just goes about the region with a meteoric career.It's a pity every general was ain't like him.The damn enemy would have been pleading for mercy long ago..."""""""

"Are the Vivian Girls safe, even though they are missing?" another boy asked.

"Not as I know of.No one is getting any word of their whereabouts any how, though the whole country is being secured for them, and many thousands of secret agents and even the Gemini is in the foe lines looking for them.Evans says he has heard of their whereabouts but that they are not within any foe army but in some seperate slave plantations to where they had been brought by those who took them away.It's a pity there ain't someone able to destroy every glandelinian army until they are returned.This situation with the floods, the fires, and like not, and now their taken away by the foe gives us and our country a lot more work todo, I don' t doubt it a bit, and the enemy I suppose says"The christian doggies"shouldn't mind that.They call us dogs, call as we are, and they are cats, who run like lightinging to get away from us dogs.I have heard it used to be different in the earlier times, that it was impossible to kid the Vivian Girls Princesses when they had been captured,and why they do not return now is a mystery to the whole army .This is themostunusual thing that I can ever remember..I wasn't at the christian lines at the tim itbpn happened.General Adele-de-Veb garbe heard of the occurance first, and there is no occasion to have more than one superfluous for there's only the enemy and Emperor Vivian between Evangeline St Clair town, and Violet,and her sisters are surely somewhere near."

"How far is Evangeline St .Claire city from here?!!!"

"It's about fourty twomiles, and a precious slow trip by the flood ed water, but going may land if it wasn't for the fires, it would be only twenty miles,and it would have been quicker. I've never been in such a situation before.Where's Mildred?"

"She's sleeping for a time.

There wasllittlemore said during the slow trip toard the land assign ed for beaching.From time to time Penrod pointed out the various smaller villages on the shore half under water of course, and Penrod even wondered to him self how the whole force should ever manage to land anythere.It seemed that they were in or on one of the Lakes of Hades, and that fiery hell was on the other side,and that burning towns were the city of Dis.Penrod had always been accustomed to many experiences of his own earlier experiences of lots of boys scouts of his age in the past, and during th e movements of the armies there had been plenty of scouting, and thrilling times, so that time had never hung on his hands, but the experiences now that he had s been go ing through, and the upresent prospects before him now almost ap appalled him.He had said once to Gertrude"It is like as if we all had been wicked sinners, died in this war and were put in hell.The scene before us almost seems as if we were there.However he had promised Violet, and her sisters that he would try to make the best of things, to bring Ger- trudes troops through the seas of Hades, and he tried to assure himself that after all his three weeks of traveling or a most th of it would soon be over at last.After half an hours movement the raft got jammed again and all the men were called to to fight the wreckage floe and pull the raft through by blasting.

"Will you come into my tent for a few minutes, Penrod ? "Gertrude asked as the work was full under way."Angeline Riches is expecting you."

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Penrod felt extremely uncomfortable about the raft being jammed again , as he followed his conductor across the raft. We came to the tent, and the sentry announced."General Penrod." "Gertrude rose from her chair and sal ted saluted him .....

"I am glad you came so quick.at my request Penrod dear, and I hope your efforts to watch the raft men perform their duty had been a comfortable one.It is very good of you to come when I know how tired you must be."

"But you look more played out than I am."said Penrod honestly."I don't think you----"and he stopped.

"I You don't think I should have stayed up so late for fear it'll be a strain on me Penrod? Well that is natural enough my boy.At least if things were not so pressing I am sure I should not have cared to giveup so much of my well needed rest.However that is why I wanted to see you, and I am very glad you have come.I wanted you to get one of your boys to guard my tent properly while I try to get some rest.I am one of your best friends you know and sodesired this favor of you.Now I know what you are thinking of Penrod I can see it in your face.No you dusn't.You get some one to guard my tent. You need rest too, and I do not want you to put a strain on yourself by staying up all night to do my work for me.You'd sacrifice everything if yo you could Penrod and I know it." she finished putting her hand on Penrods shoulder and taking him to the lamp light, and looking steadily at him...

"Other people have said so Gertrude, but I can't see how you can endure as much as you have.And besides you are so pretty, and I don't think it's nice for us boys to leave all the work to you girls."

Syi This was rather an unusual point with Penrod who had a smoothe soft face with large eyes and long eye lashes, and who had in consequence, been nicknamed"desperate Desmond"by his followers,-as whatever Penrod was going to set out for there was nothing like his stubbornessss. The name had stuck to him in spite of everything he did, or tried to undo,and the fact that in the point of strength and activity he was fully a match for any Glandelinian boyscout of his own age, or older, and bigger but as there was nothing like derision conveyed by it,and it was indeed a term of affection rather than of contempt, Penrod had at last ceased to struggle against it.But he sure longed for the time when the proper thing would happen for his country.

"I do not like you to sacrifice too much for even us girls, Penrod, but a boy I know can and does have his way many times, and you are a true boy all over.I fancy you know that Radcliffe would give anything if you was back."

"I know that Gertrude.I can swim to him if you want me to, but I know it'll be a long swim and a dangerous one.But what boy do you want me to set to guard your tent. You know I have the map."

"I should not trouble what boy Penrod, any you choose that you know. Everything will come out nicely in time you may be sure,and I like you all the beter for your service to me , because you are certainly like my own sister.And now Penrod we may if it can be done, take a day off from duty to morrow and we all will try to enjoy ourselves asmuch as possible as long as the enemy does he not interfere.The work here is dull though we have been mostly all out of doors.I have arranged with Mildred Maxwell that you can goout horseback riding to tour a part of the country for us toowhenever you are disposed.You can go three miles from our landing place.I am sorry to say we cannot make any efforts to reach Evangeline St claire from here but Mildred Maxwell had an excellent guardianship too and I am sure she will show you over the country.If you also wish Angeline Richee to go with you she may.I suppose you have had much to do with all kinds of girls!" she added at seeing a slight expression of s rp surprise on Penrods face which had expressed unmixed satisfaction at the first items of the programme.

"Plenty"Penrod said. ."Of course many of my boyscouts have sisters but being here in the army not one of them has much time to see them now."

"I know anyhow you and all of us have got got on very well together.Of course Angeline Richee is a year or two younger than you are, and I am afraid she is considered rather a tomboy.She and I and many of our girlscouts can easily climb the tallest of the trees,and in many similiar ungirl like positions, so so won't find her a dull companion.She is a great pet of mine indeed indeed, ad, though she may not be as good a compan o companion as my boy is you, I am sure as you know her well, or Mildred too you have already found she or her good substitites.I can also say that if there is anything you would like you have only to tell me,and if it be possible I will put you in the way of it."

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"Thank you very much Gertrude..You r are extremely kind."Penrod said very heartily,"for sometimes with being with so many friends his stay with the raft did not seem to be nearly as dull as he had feared.."I am sure I shall get on beautifully."

Just at this moment the sentry came in.He announced the coming of Mildred Maxwell. She then entered.

"You have just come at the right moment, Mildred."Gertrude said, as she came in.Penrod was expecting you.I asked her Penrod to come early this evening as she promised to act as your guide and help you round the region."

The boy and girl shook hands with each other. she was indeed the first to speak.

"Well Penrod I'm glad to see you.I have been wondering what you were doing. Gertrude has been telling me you were coming.I like your company and think you have been the best boy to violet, and her sisters ever knows."

"Penrod was taken rather aback.This is not the way any other girlscout had generally addressed him...

"I think you look jolly and good in your beautiful purple uniform."he said,"And that's better than looking nice."

"I think we mean the same thing."she replied,"Except that most of us girls say the word"nice" and a boy always say's Jolly".I like the word Jolly best only I got scolded by Jane Melfort when I use it.Shall we go and watch the men prin prying the raft loose from the wreckage!!!""

Altogether Penrod had a very much pleasanter time than he had antic ipated.He than spoke of what Catherine Estrabrook had said aconcerning what the two spies had declared.

"Their opinion of us is the reverse of flattering."He said."Catherine told me that the spies said that us girlscouts all of us, and even boys too are the most disagreeable old cats and dogs they had ever seen in armies.The spies said we hardly ever open our mouths and when we do it is either to answer a question of our superiors or when we eat and drink.The spy even said, they remembered in a fairy story that there was a girl whowre whenever she spoke let fall perals and diamonds from her lips, but whenever we girls and boys open our mouths, they expect posion, in icicles, daggers and reptiles to drop out."

"To the glandelinians maybe we are as badth as that."Mildred laughed. "We generally get on with our own ways very well, and we can be very kind to our foes and bad to them if we want to.

"The Glandelinians sure don't like me"said Penrod."I suppose they don't like me because I'm "christian dog" and that would be all well enough whether I had done anything to offend them or not, but it was just so bad the first day I came into general Kinderaines army.I am sure the world does not like it the way these Glandelinian armies carry on this war.I can imagine every nations king fidgit in their chair.Well I am stopping them as much as I can,that's one thing, and it doesn't make much difference to me if the Glandelinians do choose to try all efforts to run be down like a hound. A hound usually turns on his persuers you know, usually to the latter with fatal results.I like your Abbisannians immensely, even though I was a little foreign boy myself,a little frenchie,and all of your christian generals are wonderfully kind, but even to be in the army it would be awfully stupid work for me if it wasn't for you girlscouts, Mildred. I don't think I could stand it if it were not for our superiorness together."

Indeed since he ever first had entered the army Penrod had got on si capitally with all girlscouts he had known andsot every day he and some girl or boy had taken long scouting tours together, generally alone, al though sometimes violet, or or any si pf her sisters were with her or him and Penrod had confinded greatly in them all,andupon his being asked how he being a foriegn boy liked his girlscout companions, said that they were better company than any he had ever had.

"Some of the girls are nonsensical,Your Excellency she had said toone of the generals""every one of them are as good as a boy to be with.I n have never seen one girl that giggle,when you speak to them, or those who never have a word to say for themselves,and it is never awfully hard work talking to them even for a single moment.Still I believe I have come to like them better than my former Canadain companions...girls brought up in Abbisannia are naturally different to those of girls of other nations.They of course go to school, but in military affairs they are taught to behave just as much as it possible, but not to be unatural,for that isimpossible, and they generally grow up where nature intended them to be.They are good, have no scolding and bossy parents, though not allowed of curse to do as they are liking as long as it is sinful, but they are broughtup to be as natural as boys should be

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and who could scale any Abbisannian girl who could not tow a ball, or bat one as good as a boy, or stand up against football tackle...

Fenrod had often been down at the headquarters of the Vivian Girls where he always was made welcome, the Princesses, and all their generals, and even their father being very anxious to learn asmuch of his goodness and disposition as they could. They were well satisfied with the results.

One of those days emperor vivian had said

"I always fancy I know what is in Master Fenrods mind. I reckone he has already quite settled it in himsind that some day, he'll be like a brother to my good saintly sme and brave little daughters."

"How absurd Your Majesty" said Count De Biff. "Why Fenrod is far from their position."

"Quite so your Excelency, but nevertheless we do not see anything like that and you know it despite our dignified position. But I don't mean that Fenrod has any idea in his own head that the girls an d h imself are go ing to take such a fancy to him at present--only I know they will do so in the future as they are beginning to Gertrude. You know he has said he intends to show all his mettle for them and I have no doubt that this lad will get the main bulk of us som day. I have often told you and all my staffs about Fenrod and his sister Majorie who is with Violets Regiment, and how her being is grave danger once had almost affected his whole life. It's natural that a good boy as he is, and being of Fra French Canana Canada should plan to do for others as he likes done for himself. He says he has no future of his own to look forward to except to see me turn Glandelinia over my knfe knee and tann her so she won't be able to sit down for a hundred years, so he looks forward to a great victory for us that'll break the world s record. He has no interest in life so far just now but only that, and from the kind of boy, and scout he is, my daughters have said, he has them beat a million ways, and will be and is a great menance to Glandelinia."

"QAs far as I have seen of this boyscout I like him immensely" said Count De Biff. "He is evidently a straightforward manly lad, altogether un like French boys known. He also for his age has an exceptional amount of brains, he has seen the enemy literally st big forests on fire and proved it and he is of very great importance to our cause. He is bright, good tempered, but can get angry, and yet remain cool, but when he is over a bunch of boys and girls his military training, and what he has gone through, makes him a severe prin but firm, yet sensible superior. That is quite good enough to begin with, and we want him to be severe for otherwise he wouldn't be worth his commission. At any rate there there is nothing for us to be troubled about If some day, he and my friends, your little daughters get to like each other more than is usual the prospect is a good one for the god boy if not there's no harm done, At present there can be no objection to our yielding to the request of your daughters, and letting them do what they can for him when they are found, for though they are missing like this, I do not at all feel for their safty, and I'll stake my fortune on it they'll return before three weeks is out of this month. If no one else gets them back I know one who can. Violet, and her sisters as you say are more like military saints, and it is evident that the French lad regards them in the light of boys then as girls."

"They are every bit, breaking records for tomboyism you know" Count, and has few girlish notions, or ideas, or otherwise they couldn't have accomplished what thry did for the cause. They evidently have got on capitally together with Fenrod, have learned his much, so even though we know they are missing even I their father, know they'll be back, and we need not trouble our heads about them but let things go their own way with a clear conscience."

Now to go back to the raft.

After Fenrod had finished speaking with Mildred, Gertrude said;

"And so Fenrod, you have found our expedition better than you ever could have expected!"

"Much better Gertrude. Everyone is kind, obedient, and therefore I cannot think anything else. Violet, and her sisters are most hateful to the Glandelinians sijce since these disasters occured, and once when I stayed with them for two whole weeks, I should certainly have helped them play some tr ck trick or other just to play Glandelinia out... I j used to wonder why they disliked Glan delinia so much when I first was in Kindernines army and I was not well acquainted with them yet. So know I didn't at first, I felt sorry even for Glandelinia, pitied her, bthought t it was just a war over some common misunderstanding, and when I had the nerve juset to gently chide them for saying things disagreeable about Glandelinia. But now, h--a I'm changed. I hate Glandelinia more than they do."

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"And what made you change.!" asked Gertrude.

"What I had seen a few months after I had arived" answered Fenrod.. "But after all at first it didn't seem to matter much to me, I thought it was all papa paper talk, to get the country excited against Glandelinia. Of course knowing my thoughts Violet, and her sisters were very patient, and were so kind it would have been very sup stupid of me if I didn't joinb their cause heart and soul no matter what my opinion might be of Glandelinia. We j used to ride out and go for scouting tours every day. They were capial walkers, and good horseback riders as you knew Gertrude, and very jolly--almost good as boys in their ways and things. They had said many times they had been boys, and I wished so too. Stillof course Gertrude. I am very glad I have had my eyes open and I know what Glandelinia is now. There is no country like her, you know, who even dared to do her awful deeds, and its a horrid nuisance to think of all I have seen with my very eyes what Glandelinia has been doing and did. Still of course I suppose as our Blessed Lord advises us all we should Forgive, and as He wishes it I suppose I will have to do so. Anyhow I am glad to know what kind of a nation Glandelinia is, and what she had been doing. Glandelinia is a menance to the world."

A few minutes later Fenrod went down to try and see whether the men had got the raft on the move.

"Why Fenrod" said Jean walking up to him. "You are here already. I thought you went to bed."

"I am ina few minutes Jean" said the boy. "But I wanted to see why they are delayed so long."

"I know you did." the little girl replied. "Still it does seem strange without you on night duty. All the time I had been laying in bed I used to say to Jane in the other room "Fenrod will be with us to day James. It don't seem natural without him. And here you are when I am all right again. Thank heaven the weather is what it should be but if it would only rain and souse those forest fires. I'm tired of smelling that smoke."

"Well sooner or later about seven oclock I'm going to bed anyhow Jean, and after that I mean to make the most of it. Are you going back on duty to morrow?"

"At ten oclock." the little girl said.

"Don't fear no trouble with the Glandelinians."

"Lord bless you we sure won't see Glandelinians persueing us in the flood in more boa boats. Anyhow our guards are too sh sharp for them, though I have heard a good many are strewing the shore with batteries somwhere in spite of all than we can do , and a lot of us might get stopped yet I'm afraid. But we don't trouble about them. Why bless your heart Fen Fenrod if one of them in a boat was to run across us they could do nothing we have our machine guns. Besides all their troops I'm sure won't take chances with this rushing waters full of wreckage and floating ships and houses. Well will you come and see me to morrow mlr morning."

"Yes I think so Jean. Gertrude doesn't much care about my being out to ni h night you know, but as I have been about for the last thirty six hours without a wink of sleep, I expect I'll go under if I do not get some well needed rest."

"Don't you do anything that Gertrude don't like, Fenrod, there is never no good comes of boys vexing their good girl friends. I have known misfortune to follow it over and over again. Many boys think as they know best whats good for them, but they don 't, and sooner or later they are sure to own it to themselves."

"I would never do anything she really doesn't like Jean, but I don't think she despised my being out with you for a few hours to night. She knows she can trust you Besides what harm could come of it. And--- here you Joe, come here, I want you to do me a favor" he suddenly interrupted as the lad he mentioned passed.

"Yes Fenrod what is it." saluting.

"You are a reliable boy." said Fenrod. "I want you to guard Miss Aronburgs tent all night."

"Very good i sir I will." and he sped off.

Fenrod then continued

"You little girls have stood good rough weather."

"Oh yes pretty rough, but we never saw battles yet you know. Besides I believe we could stand the scene of battles you know, we might be as safe on a battlefield as we are here."

"This is dangerous though" said Fenrod. "But none of us ever seem content unless we are in a battle or going through everything we can. What good does it do to us anyhow. Yet this is bad enough for me anyhow. It reminds me of being in Hades, with every one else."

"It sure does to me Fenrod too. I have heard you use exciting lan guage too whenever the other boys who were careless did the wrong thing."

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"Aye that may be."Fenrod admitted"And on the way during our trips tward the Orphan Home I grant you that a little more speed was sometimes needed to my advantage.No we ain't too sure about our own safe keeping yet, I own up to that, but nevertheless our raft is safe and steady, and she had plenty of storage room for to literally set our tent as if on dry land , and we have room for our whole troop of cavarly, and horses besides.We sure have made the most unusual raft ever known that I have ever seen or could name..."

"That's true enough Fenrod."Gertrude said.

"But what's more, she's a lucky raft, for it would not be eay easy to wreck her even if she was rammed.."

"I think that's morevjudge judgement than luck "Fenrod, though there may be some luck in it too."

"I know know don'tknow nothing about that Gertrude. Of courge all of us need sharp eyes to see what can be coming on shore for you know Glandelinian batteries if they hurl the right kind of shells can do us a lot of damage.But I believe in luck.Well Gertrude do you think we'll reach our landing place before ten oclock to night."

"I don't expect to.Jean can tell you.Well I'm going to turn in.Jean will keep-you further company till you turn in too.So long Fenrod."

and she returned to her tent.

"I'll soon be busy calling about the ten to morrow Jean"continued Fenrod to her"and I don't suppose I shall have time to get down to help you before ten.If I am coming I shall be sure to be on time, so if I am not here by ten, I'll send you a mo te.."

"That will be all right "she said."But you had better turn in too! You have sacrificed the greater part of your thirty six hours for our selves, and if anything does happened your guard will awaken you.I will pack you your breakfast for you if you like Fenrod.There is a nieepiece of cold meat in my supplies and I will have that made into sandwitches, and also some cheese put up for you.I know what our thrilling excursion is, and though we intend to land at a certain time, we are jammed, then the wind falls, or the tide of the flood turns or something of that sort, and then we can't make the land as soon as we expect.You know what a fright you gave us all you went out on the edge of the flood to go fishing for us some days ago.You were to have been back at three oclock in the after noon,and you did not get back till three oclock in the afternoon, of the third day you went."

"I sure remember Jean, and there you and a shore of others were on the shore when I came in on the boat.I sure had some time to get back, was carried miles down by the water having lost my oar, or paddle, and had to wait the chance to grasp a floating board.I was awfully sorry about it."

"Well I have learned bet better since, Fenrod,and I know now that there is not necessarily any danger, even if you don't come back by the time we expect you.And of course each time we have fidgetted,and you have come back safe, I have learned a certain amount of flood knowledgem and have come to know that none of us can be accountable for time, and as we have experienced on our raft, if the wind drops or the tide turns, paddling will do no good, we are helpless in the matter and only have to wait untill a breeze springs up again."

"I think Jean you ought to like this trip on the raft..."

"Why Fenrod?"

"Because Jean, when you get used to it, you won't be worrying your self sick.Of course we do not like to chance it at night, for though that might not cause us a bad disaster yet we do not know what we will strike, and we might get jammedup for good.Otherwise there's nothing to wory about."

"Well Fenrod, perhaps that is so, although I own I never thought of that before."

"Nevertheless this is a dangerous section of the country a we are in"said Jean.It's true enough we go out on the waters in the day time and don't make the trip at night, but nevertheless we are in dangerous country we all can worry ourselves, and having no thought as to what might happen, and to set on the raft, wondering and wondering, untill you fancy all sort of terrible things.Now if we would risk a trip on the raft at night, we would'nt expect to see land in the morning or at any hour you expect, t and therefore there isplenty to make a person uneas y and feel fidgetty, neither could it always be safe for any of us to walk close to the rafts edge and to talk to others.We are sure in dangerous country Fenrod, and I harl hardly ever cease praying that we will be safe.You know twice I've been wounded already, and a number of us have been killed."

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"Well Jean, you are right indeed, but I have always seen in it in that light light before."

The appearance of the landscape to which they were drawing to by the help of the light of distant forest fires was altogether changed. Although the breeze had now utterly changed ceased, and though they all had made a great deal of way during the day and evening had were i now lying be-jamad in a floe of debris about half a mile to the southwest of the low eastern shore they found considerable land under water, and a big town partly submerged. Grey smoke shrouded woods covered the land further up in an unbroken wall. This unusual even tint was indeed broken up by streaks of yellow moving waters in the lower flooded lands, and by many tall trees of the big pine varity variety, cuttopping the others, some singly, some in clumbs their bases under water, as if growing in a swamp but the fe general coloring was uniform a and sad.....

The hills partly covered thickly with smoke and broken by fires reflections ran up clear above the landscape and looked like volcanoes in eruption. By the glare of fire, and reflections, all were strangely and grotesquely shaped, and one of the highest hills which seemed to be about three or four hundred feet higher than the rest, and was likewise by the glow the strangest in configuration running up sheer from almost every side and then suddenly cut off at the top like a pedestal to put a statue on.

A big deleric of a ship was "rolling scuppers" under the flood swell and it was feared by the scout sentries that the wreck might bear down upon the raft.The booms unmanageable because there were no one on the ship were t aring at the blocks, the rudden was banging to and fro, and the whi whole ship creaking groaning and jumping like a manufactory. Jean herself was on guard for three hours and she had to clea cling tight to the railing and the world seemed to turn giddly before her eyes, for though she was a good enough girlscout, this standing still and being rolled about like a bottle was a thing she had never learned to st stand without a qualm or so above all in the morning; on an empty stomach. Perhaps it was this - perhaps it was the look of the landscape,with its grey smoke shrouded melancholy flare lighted woods, and wild volcanic eruption like hills and the flood horror that she could see foaming and thundering onward--al at least though the glare of fire shone bright and red, and many creatures were seen flying from the distant forests you would have thought any one would have been glad to keep off the land after even being so long on the flood, and at such scenes her heart sank, as the saying, is into her shoes and from that first look onward, she hated the very thought of the "Flaming forests.

She realised no one could be able to land till morning at least, and that it would be a dre dreary mornings work before them,for there was no sign of any wind, the raft this time was jammed tigher than usual,and they could do nothing, blasting couldn't be attempted for fear of attracting foes on shore, and it seemed if they must land it would have to be done by boats and then probably when on land the raft might somehow break loose and they would lose it entirely.

Jean had volunteered for one of the boats,.Though it was night the heat was sweltering,and the men grumbled fiercely ag again t the Glandelinians for all this. Frank George Anderson was in command of the boat, and he grumbled as loud as the worst.All were deadly foes of Glandelinians, Jean could see that....

"Well"he said, with an oath,"It's not forever.We'll get even with Glandelinia bye and bye.....".

Jean thought this was a very bad sign against all Glandelinians, for up to night the men had gone briskly and willingly about their work, but the very sign of the inferno on land, the flood, the raft being jammed, and the smoke darkened sky, the heat, and other causes of mental and physical suffering had relaxed the cords of discipline.Jean believed that should the Glandelinians attack now, the Glandelinians would have their own hands full, as these men were in no mood to be trifled with. All the way in, a man who was tall and stately, who was from his height and thinness nicknamed "Long Y John stood by the edge of the raft and watched or directed proceedings.He knew the flood /like the palm of his hand,and he never hesitated one.

"There's a strong pull with the floods ebb." he said"And if we can pull with paddles on the raft to follow that direction we may draw free..."

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This a t after desperate work, and much remarks about glandelinia on the part of the men finally succeeded, and they brought the raft out, but to make things worse the raft then got stranded, and the bottom was clean sand and mud.An explosive report fromsomere somewhere so suddenly sent up clouds of birds wheeling and crying over the waters, but in less then a minute they were down again, and all was once more silent. But again came the "Bang."

"Everybody quiet."cried the Logn John."I believe we are fired on."

They observed that the place was entirely landlocked, buried in the very woods, the trees all pines and fir, and even otherseeming right down to the lowe st water mark, the shore of the floocod mostly flat, and the hillsteps standing high and long at a distance, and looking more smoky and glary them ever.

"If we are stuck here and the fire comes to us"said "Long John"We are in "Hell"and no mistake."Get to work boys and try and pull her loose.Drat these low shores.We are beached indeed."

The men worked like fury but the raft wouldn't budge.The shore near here from so much water looked like a swamp but some of them doubted if these trees would burn, declaring that from the waters all the trees nearlest the flood were supplied with water to their leaves but Jean saidp-

"You're wrong.I've seen the fire burn to the waters edge.Water around trees won't stop the fire." From the raft they could see nothing of any opening in the forest,and if it had not been for a chart made of the country, and for Mylatzes map too the whole force wouldn't know whether they were still in southern Calverinia, or Nong, Nong China.

There was not a breath of air moving, nor a sound but that of the floes of wreckagi wreckage booming and banging, and the rear of the floods rushing by.A peculiar stagnant smell hung over the raft, a smell of sodden leaves, rotting tree trunks, and vegetation..... Jean observed one of the men sniffing, and sniffing like some one tasting a rotten egg.

"I know about glandelinians being on shore here."he said"but I'll stake my heart there's fever here."

If the conduct of the men at work prying the raft loose from the sandbar had been unusual- it became more truly tg threatening.They worked hard grovling together and making many opinion remarks of Glandelinia.However the slightest order was received with a hearty good will, but blank looks were always directed tward where Glandelinian armies may be known.Every one seemed to have caught the infection for there was no one on board still awake to mind another. Yet danger it seemed hung over all like a thunder cloud.

And it was not only the men who perceived the danger.Long John was hard at work going from group to group, spending himself in very good advice,and as for example no man should have shown a better character.He fairly outstripped himself in willingness and civility, he was all smiles to every one. If an order were given, John would be at work at once with the cheeriest "Yes,Yes Miss, or Yes,Yes sir " in the world, and when there was nothing else todo he kept up one song after the other, as if to cool down the dix dis content of the rest. Of all the gloomy features of that gloomy late evening this obvious anxiety on the part of Long John appeared the worst. We feared all were trapped unless the raft was pulled loose.

Those of the girlscout officers who had not yet retired, held a council in the middle of the raft.

"Girls"said Angeline Richee,"If we risk to remain here toolong, the whole forest of fires will sooner or later come about our ears by the run. You see girls, and boys too, here it is. We get into rougher positions, do we not.Welo if we give the work pikes will be going in two shakes, but we cannot bring ourselves loose by that and if we don't do something we'll remain here forever, and then if the enemy would be close by, and know our situation the games about up.Now we've only one thing to rely on."

"And what is that?" asked Gertrude's side-de-camp ,George hawkins.

"Have all the strong men leap into the shallowest water, and try to push the raft free.It's the only way to another things up.Look the glare is getting brighter every minute.Let's allow all the strong men to even scout the shore.If they all go we'll be at odds with the foe should he appear and we'll fight with them at a disadvantage.If they none of them go, then we can hold the raft, till it breaks free, and God defend us who are in the right hands.If some go mark my words girls, John Long John who can command them willbring us some reliable information.He's the best man scout we have and very piqustoo."

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It was so decided, and many recieved the news with less surprise and a better spiti spirit than we had looked for, and then Angeline Richee called "Attention" to everybody, and addressed them.

" My lads and girls"she said,"We've had a hot day trip before us, and night time is worse, and many of us are all tired out and out of sorts.A turn for the shore is too extremely dangerous here---the raft is still stuck in the bar, so we request that a good strong body of you men get out and see if you cannot push the raft free.The water isn't too deep here or other wise the raft wouldn't stick.If anythinggoes wrong the sentry will fire a gun."

It seemed as if the men were likt pirates breaking their shins over treasure the way they set to work to b obey her com and, for they all camecut of their sulks in a moment, and while pushing as hard as their strength would allow gave a cheer that started the echoe in a far away landscape rise, and sent the nighr night birds once more flying and squalling round and an and above the raft.Angeline Richee was too bright to be in the way.She whipped out of sight in a moment, leaving Long John to arrange the party of workers, and it was well that she did so.Had she remained on deck of the raft she could no longer so much as have pretended not to under stand the situation, and the men man would have become still more disc ouraged..It was plain as day indeed.Long John was the captian, and a mighty good crew of workers he had.All of the meh worked desperately as suggested.

At last however the main party of workers was made up.Sixty soldiers were to stay on board the raft, and the remaining or as many as could hardly handle portions of the raft were to pull andpush, while others were to go ashore, scout, and if enemies are in sight try to clear the region of them to make t e the place safe.Then it was that there came into Jeanmind thw the first of the mad notions that contributed so much to save the lives of all.If sixty men were left on the raft it was plain that there would not be enough troops to fight should the enemy surprise the raft by another quarter, and since only sixty were left it was equally plain that it was her duty to scout in Her own crafty way and see if glandelinians were anywhere near.

It occured to her at once to go ashore.so in a jiffy she had slipped over the railing of the still stranded raft, and started to swim ashore.No one took notice of her, only one man saying."Is that you Jean?Keep you r head down as you swim or something floating in the water will jam you a wallopp."

But the leader of the party going ashore, looked sharply over and called out to know if the swimmer was Jean, and from that moment she had begun to regret what she had done.The soldiers literally raced for the shore, while the rest were working still in a vain effort to draw the raft free,but Jean being a good wader and having some start, got far ahead of the others/ and she no sooner reached the edge of the shore, when she noticed she was getting stuck in quicksand, but she caught a branch and swung herself out, and plunged into the nearest thicket, while the many soldiers were still a hundred yards or more behind.

"Christian dogs andav advancing."she heard some one shout."Retreat fellows.They are wise to us."

Then some one else called!

"Jean, Jean, you're in danger."

But any one may suppose, she either did not hear, or did not pay any attention, jumping, ducking, and breaking through, and ran straight ahead till she reached a large tree, which she had in mind to climb.

"There's a nive breese."coming now"she thought o to herself"as she stood before the tree.

In the meantime the work was going on but there seemed to be no headway.

The men were growing fatigued and about to give up.

But just then it began to heave.

"How is it now?" asked Mildred who had gotten up at the commotion.

"Yes it's just right, it'll be better though if the raft was not too heavy.The sand bar holding it is rather thick, and I shouldn't be surprised if we get in deeper if we do not be careful, but it won't happen again I hope."

"But the wreckage masses."

"We don't need to fear that so much.."

"Where's Jack Francis your lieutenant Jo?"Asked wildred .

"The foolish scamp."the leader said angrily."Nothing will do for him but to go climbingup that cliff to scout, and he has been shot by some sniper and though not wounded much fell down nevertheless and twisted his leg, and broke his arm, and the doctor says's he out of service for nearly a year now.

Some of the girls and boys began to cry o ve ever ig over it, while as I told them if anyone ought to cry it would be me, who's got to hire or get another lieutenant in his place."

"You are not sure we'll get the raft free to night are you ?"Jean".

"No I don't think we can, Miss Maxwell, I know you like to do things, and see things done.Many of the ne men are trying and we do not make any pro ress .But girl you'd better go back and get some sleep."

However the unexpected happens.It was only ten minutes later when the raft had to be anchored or It would have flo ted away and left the rest behind on shore. some of the boys got off int into a small boat and rowed off to find Jean, and call back the soldiers.

"There was no necessity for any one to bring so much provisions"said one man."I know we are all fond of a fish fried just when it is taken out of the waters if we can get any, but we have lots of provisions to say nothing nothing of a mouthful of spirits in case we get wet.Not that it looks likely we shall for I doubts if there will be a winds to night.I was hoping however that there would be more wind, for we need it badly."

Asall the soldiers came back, and Jean too the raft continued out down the flood.Gertrude had seen to it that the raft amentioned before was fitted as a fortress also. she had a handy idea by placing the machine and long rang guns on all sides of the raft.Whenvthey got further out on the waters some of them decided to fish while the rest went to their cots and beds for a nights sleep, as it would still take all night to reach the spot of land they were heading for.The wind had freshened a little bit since they had started again, but there was no heavy seas to speak of.Thevnight had set in thick with a smoke fog,and the stars could not be seen, and the glow of fires too had disappeared.The fishers had succes succeeded in securing a number and the night sentries were allo e allowed to fry and eat them.Jean handpickedout two or three fine fish from the first haul,and these she took down and soon had frizzling over in a frying pan over a small fire in a camp stove, which she had lighted as soon as the raft was under sail.

"These are for you Catherine."she said."With your permission I shall not eat anything to night.pish ain't no treat to me, and I g don't often care for meat.Keep your eye peeling while the others others are asleep.There are not many floating derelicts of ships about in the flood, still we might tumble against one."

"It's strange we can't see the fire light in this smoke mist!" Jean.

"No, we couldn't, and what's worse, smoke can be so thick as to shut off the glare altogether.That is how some towns gets surprised by the fire fire so that no one gets a chance to escape."

" tIt would be a good thing to know a certain town, Jean, and be able to signal to it if it was indanger."

"Ay,my fean"said but you see in such awful smoke it ain't convenient, and war time either.And a town too does's want to show lights in her windows to any Glandelinian hordes that may be rowing about, and you may be sure the Glandelinians don't want to attract any attention of their victims untill they are close upon them.No there is no lights of any kind seen now not in these regions.It's only when the air is clear we can see the fires and the glows."

Now that the raft was all right there was hardly no occassion for any one but the night paddlers to be up and awake, and nearly all the rest went to get their sleep Jean too.The first two hours of the night passed very quietly.

"So far we have had goodluck"said one of the men at the paddles," and I notice we generally do well when we have these brave girlscouts with the raft.We are making more progress than we have since we first started out when the raft was made, and if it goes on like this, we shall make a good thing of it.We need to reach a goodpiece of land had enough.The war has made everything so terrible that we don't know where we are."

"What time is it now do you think"Frank!"

"About ten olc o-clock I reckon."I hope it'll begin to get lighter by some later hour either by a moon or something so we can see our way."We had scarcely spoken when he shouted loudly! "Ship ahoy.Look out for yourself boys.We are going to crash.It moving down on us like a monster."

Startled by the suddeness of the cry many of the sleepers awakened sprang to their feet.They saw a crest of white foam a few yards away in the darkness.A moment later something dark passed over the edge of the raft and a rope brushed a mans cheek and as it did n so a black mass struck the raft.

There was a terrible crash, a shock, and the ship getting the worse of it from the sharpness of the rafts edges, and being badly stove in, amid the noise of rending timbers began to sink down like a stone and went half way and then stopped barring further progress of the raft, which however was stuck in the ships bow.Many of those on board the raft staggered under the force of the collission or were thrown flat, the raft was partly crushed by a wire made by the shock, and one man whowas near was caught by the leg by a heavy h eavy beam and though not hurt could not work himself loose.

"Help he shouted.Hullo,some one and Help me!"

A few seconds later a the light of a lantren was flashed upon him. Then several of the soldiers managed to lift up the beam, which came from somportion of the boat, and another dragged him from under.A minutes later he was safe, and others now set to work to pry the raft loose from the ship wreck. "

"Thank yous" he exclaimed."Have you seen anything of the man who was wi with i me.There were two of us at that shot.If not please look for him at once."

"I'm afraid it's no use "one of the soldiers said."He must hv have gone down or got killed and will never come up again.You come along with me to the doctor.We must see whether your leg is hurt or not."

In the meantime a feeling of uneasiness seized Gertrude, who had been awakened as she saw the crash and its result.She could for a moment see nothing for the lantren had been placed in a barrel the moment the man was saved as no light at her orders must be seen on the raft from anyportion of the unknown shores.At the moment a hail came from the stern of the raft, and Gertrudes fears were at once realised, for the man had said "The raft is tightly wedged in the wreckage of the boy.We'll have to take the chances to make noise by dynimiting or we'll be here forever."

The reply was from Penrod;

"Well go ahead then if you must.Who was responsible. Why didn't they look more closely. This is the third time to night we've been jammed.See Gertrude.What did I tell you.It's better to have remained on land.Take the man who got caught to the doctor and see if he is injured or not.We have suffered no damage to the raft I hope!"

"Not as far as any one can see by the light of the lantren, but some of our carpenters carpenters have gone to see if they couldn't get the raft loose from the foundered ship.If not we'll blow up the ship."

"Hullo please"someone all of a sudden shouted."Help, help/ help.."

"somebody in the water."Cried one of the soldiers."Maybe it's our comrade. One of the soldiers lighted a candle a d and flashed in the direction of the cry.The soldier saw a figure crawling out on a pa piece of wreckage left by the stove in ship, and he sailed in two men, one of which seized him by the collar, and another by the arm,,, and lifted him out of the water.A minute later he was standing on the raft.

"Thank you very muchis a"he spoke in broken language."Have you seen it three horsens who were mitt me.There were three of us, on he board and your raft sunk it as the boat collide with you."

"There's no hope for any one friend." one of the boyscouts said, as he noticed the man rescued had a strong o foreign accent.Many may have gone down and will never come up again in this flood.Who you a refugee?"

"That's what I'm."

"What?"

"I'm."

"Speak plainly sir.Can't you speak out tongue."

"Not very good sir."

"You come along with me to the head leader of this raft."

The stranger felt uneasy, for feeling he may be suspected as a enemy.He could see nothing, for thecandle had been suddenly put out the moment he had touched the decks of the raft . At this moment a hail came from the stern of the raft, and the strangers fears, were at once almost realised, for it was in Abbiesanian.He thought to himself."The dreaded force of the foe.Glandelinians.Now Will I escaped."

He heard sthe reply come to the hail and it was in the same tongue, and he was led aft.

"Take him to Miss Arenburg, and let's see what he is like.If he's a Glandelinian he'll have to submit being a prisoner or give his parole to be free....!"

The captian of the boy scouts who gave the order led the way down into the locality of Gertrudes tent. Then when a glare suddenly appeared from the forest fire the German stranger was flabbergasted.He was among child scouts and men in strange dark uni o- uniforms. The tent into which he wasbough was comfortably furnished, and lighted by a swinging lamp....

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"Do come along Jack Jacques, you will be needed to interpret."said another boyscout;

Gertrude was surprised when she saw by the light of the lamp that the person they had rescued was not a man as the y supposed but a fourteen year old foriegn lad, of German a p appearance, well dressed,and evidently above the condition of the mici military.

"Who are you gonny?" she asked,"and what have you to say for yourself?"

The question was translated by Jacques.

"I like that indeed"the boy said indignantly."What have I to say for my self?.I think the main thing is what have you tomy for yourselves.We were refugees in a boat, when that boat that hit you rammed us and sank and drowned my parents and sister, and haven't even stopped for a moment, some of you to see if you could pick them up.I call it shameful and inhuman."

Gertrude Angeline grew red as Jacques translated the speech,thepurport of which he had indeed made out for himself, for although he did not speak any thon tongue and only English very bad outside of his own, he understood it pretty good.

"Tell him it was not our fault, that men are out in boats looking for the others.We did not see his boat till the boat struck him and usedn for his parents and sisters what chance was there of finding them on such a dark night as this, though we are trying to do so.And we have all we can do to break free from the wreck.Besides if they were alive they would have shouted as he did."

The German lad saw when he understood what Gertrude said,that there was real truth in her words, and that the chances of discovering his parents and sister was indeed slight, even though the boats of men were trying to locate them orprodiving the flood didn't sweep the three on down the tide.

"May I ask what ship this is, and what you are going to do with me?"

"This is no ship,this is a raft, as to what we are going to do with so it is not so easy to say, as we do not knew whether you are a friend or a foe.Of course if you like you can jump overboard again, but if not sonny you can stay on board untill we have the opportunity of putting you ashore somewhere where it issafe for you.How did you and your parents come to be on board a boat at this time of night.For I suppose it was a boat the wreck rammed against the raft."

"I lived in Germany." the boy replied,"and had only been in this country before, the ar war started."

"Well you are out of luck this." Gertrude said.That will do Jacques.Take him forward and sling a cot for him.Hang up his clothes on a line, they will be dry by the time he awakens."

The German lad asked no questions, as he was taken forward,as to the character of the raft, and its occupants.He saw however that six guns were ranged along each side of the rafts edges making twenty for altogether, and this and the appearances of the girlscout officer was sufficient to inform him that he had fallen into the hands of Abyssinkilians, and that he was in no danger if he can 'prove he is no foe.Jacques as he hung up the hammock bed explained to those who asked him the character of the passenger, who had so unexpectedly come on aboard.

"Poor lad." one of the lps said good naturedly."He will be something before he'll see Germany again.Never will he see his parents I'm afraid.He hasn't got a very bright outlook for him or before him--a long voyage and then a refugee camp.If will go and see if we have anything for him.A glass of spirits will do him good."

A few minutes later the ger a German boy was helped into the cot, and the glass of strong brandy that he received soon caused him to go off into a sound sleep in spite of the painful un e uncertainnity of his position and of his sorrowful thought of his parents and little sister, who he felt sure were drowned.It was nearly midnight, before he woke.He was awakened by a great crash, Looking round him he saw he had had theportion of the raft all to himself.His clothes were hanging by a cord on a line near by and in a few minutes he was on deck.The raft had been forced free from the shipwreck, but had is going backwards crashed into a floating house behind xrushing it. A sense of disappointment stole over him.He had while dreaming entertained the hope that on going forward he should see that the raft was heading for land, but he saw by a light that some bad looking boat seemed to be in persuit, the wind had agains dropped, and the air was still thick with smoke fog and his vision with darkness combined with the smoke was confined to a circle h quarter of a hundred feet.in distance. A little boy coming up to him accompanied by Angeline Rae nodded to him in a friendly

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manner good tempered way, for all on board were good people.Their voyay voyage however had been,it seemed delayed propitiously, the darkness of the night, and the smoke fog had enabled them to run what they believed past any dangerous shores, but they were still in the same spot, and though the smoke fog reduced their chances of being seen by an enemy in the minimum they had made no furtherprogress than when they started.

"Where about are we?". the German boy asked.

"We are in the samepleae where we started from I presume"said the girl scout, and I guess some distance of a mile off land.We should go ahead you see, and we are still logged.This is what we girlscouts call adventure."

Oh I see.You were working down the flood.v the German boy said."You are not Glandelinians I believe?"

"Glandelinians. Say boy it's would be an insult for any one to call us Glandelinians.We are Abyssinkilians, Calverinians, and Angelinians aboard here. If you are all right you'll sure find us firm and true friends."

"And where are we going to?".

"Ah."said the boy with her."That is a question for the "raft"to answer if it can talk.We intend to head for Evangeline St Claire, but we are still here."

"Why that is in Uncle Toms Cabin."said the boy puzzled.

"Maybe it is.But we do not mean her." laughed the girl."You boys being new are not familiar with our towns. That place is a city."

"Oh, my mistake.And e you are heading for that port?"

"Yes."

"Are youse going to chance it on this dangerous flood?" the boy asked anxiously.

"We have to I suppose.It's more dangerous on land. We hope not though v but we will have to unless we have the luck to pick up some means of getting through, and we might then assert ourselves to the town.But unless we do that we do not touch anywhere but stay here, luckily for you I sup ose because after all its a great better great deal better cruising on this raft than running through all the perils on the shore.I knowpretty well for I was four months pursued by enemies, fires, and what not.How did you come to be on the flood, if I have the liberty to ask."

"The glandelinians forced me on.I was four years in theirpossession before I ran away from slavery toreturn to my parents, and then a fugitive a week ago before I got on this raft.That is how I came to speak your language a little.It was a weary time of it, though we were not so badly treated, not half so bad as I have heard that the prisoners and slaves are in some other sections of the foe camps..So I owe you christians good will on that account, and from what I have heard some of the Glandelinian prisoners are the worse of all.My old mother taught me lots of military things when I was younger.Besides what the use of making yourself so unhappy about it when you cannot do anything."

"How did you escape the Glandelinians?" Angeline asked."Were you ex-exchanged."

"No I was not , as the Glandelinians do not exchange boys and girls for other prisoners not except in Hyletsen army,and I wasn't there."And I might have waited long for that believe me.I can't make out myself why your own governments don't do something about these floods.At any rate they do in my country.One would have thought they would be glad to do so so as to save themselves the trouble and expense of looking after and taking care of so many victims.Governments always have such curious ways."

"But how did you get away from the Glandelinians?" Miss Rae asked.

"It was the child slaves who helped me." the boy replied."You know it is that it is always women or children that.helps men or boys out of dangers and yet most boys and men thinkgs girls are cowards.It was just recently that I escaped.It was a girl slave of some Glandelinian General.she used to bring to the general h s his meals sometimes when we were forced to work in the fields and on trenches.When I first went there,she had a younger child with her, also a girl.At first not knowing better, or seeing things right, I had no good , may I had very bad opinions of girls, looking at them,as sorry cute, sissies, and good for nothing and so forth, well usually that it true with many where I come from but here, they astonish men me.I do believe you girls are boys sometimes.Since then I have been as fond of girls as I am of boys.The elder girl slave at first knowing I was not a mere slave but a prisoner saw me speak to her little girl friend one day, and I supposed she guessed it reminded me of home for I had mother father and sister.she noticed I was very friendly to the littleone, and as I did many things secretly for the little girl it made a sort of friendship between me and all the child slaves who began to trust me. You can always win a girls heart by taking notice of their friends.When ever the Glandelinians were not looking

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I used to cart carry the baby girl on my shoulder.So it went on till the better time came.One day after the battle at Hendrick Junction on the Cedernine Creek, known by the Glandelinians as the "Cedernine Horor" the little slav slavy was running across the trench to its elder girl friend as she came out from the camp of the retreated army.Two of the Glandelinians were warning us frequently"Keep away"Fire coming on to camp. The fire came near dew destroying us-both, and I was as fond of the child as if it had been my own,and though glandelinians tried to hinder myyurpose, I rushed furiously at them and knocking them down, ran through the fringe of the blaze and saved the child.The guards rushed up, and I got a fortnights close confinement on the charge of "Reckless daring to suicide." Even Glandelinians will punish a soldier or a prisoner for being rash."One said"It's all right to rescue any one, whether it's a slave you feel, but if you eldin you're a christian why suicide.Fire is worse than bullets or shells."

Another time I got punished again.Two glandelinians were skylarking and runningone way while the child was running another.One of them knocked the little girl down heavily in a collision.It indeed was an i accident, but you know how glandelinians are, they don't have no feelings for child slaves and he only raised cain at the child for being in his way. I butted in and I was compelled to do-nights guard duty for punishment at the most exposed part of the camp.And the glandelinians say I shouldn't committ suicide.

The first time I was released from confinement again, and met the alg elder child slave, the little one ran to me-but the girl, a little to my surprise, and first to my uneas nyness said nothing, and seemed cold toard me.She passed without even giving me a look, and I thought she had turned against me, but the little child ran up, looked cautiously to right and left and giving me a hug and a kiss said;

"Catty gave me this to give to you,"and sheput a little note in my hand.I took the first opportunity to read it in a quiet spot where there were no Glandelinians around. It was as followsxas far as I can remember it;

"Dear foriegn boy, too bad I do not know your name but its's better for us I don't.I saw how nobly you saved my little friend from fire, and how nobly you stood up for her,and how you got punished for protecting her twince twice. You have always been good to her.I have often thought I might help you to escape, but was afraid to try.But I learned you are neither a foe of the Glandelinians, nor the christians, you are a foriegner, and I do not see why the glandelinians keep as prisoner, even though they do not treat you bad.Now I will try to help you.It will not be easy as you know, but I will manage it.Do not be impatient, the child will giveyou another note,then I have quite arranged things .I shall never talk to you in the future or I won't even act friendly or else when you have got away-I may be suspected, and then I'll be a w swinging, so do not be surprised at my seeming cold, or hostile."

After that the elder girl always pretended not to let the littlecome even come near me and when the child did it seemed as if she had only slipped away from her elder guardian,and every time she brought me something,once a little pistol, and cartridge belt, and a little packet containing three small daggers, and a hunting knife.On the paper which held this was written; "for your defense if persued.You shall have a horse secretly next time.I'll managed to have it act as a runway fhorse but it is trained to stop where it hears a funny whistle.Sure enough next time the child came again, pretending to have slipped away and had hidden in its frock a hank of very thin cord which I managed as I was playing with her toslip unobserved into my breast.

Catherine says next time"she lisped.The note read;

"The horse at the signal will at night stop in front of the tents I'll see that the guard is doped.There will be no moon.I shall be waiting with my little friend and others as I'll have to escape tooafter this.If you can find something beside the little pistol do so.There will be a boat on the river ready to take you away."It turned ou out more better than I had expected.It was a pitch dark night, but and blowing, and the sentires kept inside their confinements.I got the horse to come up all right, and the girl came riding one with her friend on the va back hanging one.She led me down to the Cedernine Creek threeee miles away and there we got on board a boat, and I was rode out to a christian raiding cruiser which at once put up steam and two days later we were at Pandora.I escaped, and that is how I came to learn Abbiesnnians That elder girl, afterwards I learned turned out to have been Jennie, one of the Vivian Girl Princesses."

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"Did you ever hear whether the Vivian Girl Princess who helped you was ever suspected after she escaped with you?"

"I saw some of her boy scouts, a few weeks afterwards on one of the trips.He said of course there were many inquiries made,and every child slave had been questioned closely, as to the identification of the escaped girl.But they either knew nothing, or wouldn't tell but it didn't do any good anyhow, and even the prisoners bore her out about not coming near me, for it had been noticed that she seemed not as freidnly as she had been, that she had given me nothing but haughty looks, that she wouldn't speak to me any more,which in a way was true.Some had thought she was either ungrateful or fancied that she was angry at my interfering and making a tumult with my captors or that I was discovred because I was a foriegner. Anyhow whatever suspicions they might have had they couldn't think of anything else but that I had escaped myself and to cover my escape forced her to go with me.I sent her a letter of thanks by one of the boy scouts, and a littlepresent for her, and for the little child.The boy scout was to give them to her.Any they say girls are fraidy cats.Any one else that tells me that and I'll show him something believe me."

"Well I only hope."Angelina Rae said,"Th at when I get shut up in one of the glandelinian prisons, I shall find some child slave, or maybe one of the Vivian girls spying there, who would aid me to make my escape, just as you found one of them to help you, only I hope it won't be five years coming about."

"Some glandelinian camps though look sharper after their prisoners than those under the Wanloys do, still it may be.But try not to do such a stunt of becoming prisoner just to try it out girl."

"But how about myself here."He ag again asked.

"Well boy as you are a foriegner,and if you do things well, and learn more to speak our language, and make yourself useful and show your true character, I do not think we are likely to hand you over to the chrie t christian aurthoritiew when we get back to any christian camp again. You never fought for the Glandelinians did you?"

" No I never did, and I am quite ready to learn the langgage language and make myself useful." the boy said."It is always a good thing to know Abbiesnnian, especially as I'm going into your army as a boyscout som day if I can, that is if I ever can get to the army in time."

"Oh I think you will do so." the girl said."You keep up your spirits well, and that is the great thing.There are many boys and girls too that would sit down and cry all night and all day if they found themselves in such a fix as you have got into."

"Cry."repeated the boy almost indignantly."You don't suppose a boy of my age would cry like a baby.An English or a German boy would be ashamed to cry, especially when so many of you girl and boy scoutsmight be looking on."

Angelina laughed good naturedly.

"There would be nothing to be ashamed of"she said."We do not cry over things because we are used tocur crosses.We laugh and cry and ding and we can show our mettle when we are aroused.And why shouldn't we?"

"For many, many things." the boy replied." nd if I had lost my parents and sister crying wouldn't help me any though I feel sure I should cry like a great big baby.But what would be the good of it."

Angelina shrugged her shoulders.

"Many of the people are so different."she sa id."No one can be a coward because they cry or bawl."I have been in foriegn countriesmyself and have seen two girls fighting andpulling each Others hair and crying all the time but they fought on.They did not cry because they are afraid.Of course they ought to have been ashamed of themselves to fight at all.It was disgusting.When why even in my country here children never hate and fight each other, though they fought boy and girl scouts of the enemy and do not pull each others hair either.If that is the way foriegn children fight, no wonder they can't learn military ways."

A few minutes later another boy scout came up and told Angelina Rae to inform the German Boy, that Miss Arcmburg had ordered him to go back to his bed and that by morning he would be supplied with clothes similier to those worn by the rest, and that he would be given some duty in the morning.The boy was wellpleased at the news.He felt that the best way to show he was a friend was to make himself useful on board the raft and to become one of them as soon as possible, so that he wouldn't be mistaken as an enemy and sent off a s a prisoner.As long as he was on board and these were not glandelinians he would not even escape if opportunities presented themselves.He could have easily slipped away in the dark, or the raft might be captured by glandelinians.He thereforeturned to with alacrity.

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That he would or might have a hard time of it for a while he felt sure, for although he Abgeline Rae he probably had found one who might trust him at a start, he saw by the scowling glances or suspicious and distrustful glances of man many others as he passed near them on his way back to the bunk that the national feeling told heavily against him. He felt sure they believed he might be an enemy boyscout posing as a "German boy". Nor was it surprising that it would be so. The animosity between Glandelinia and Abbisannia had lasted so long and was so furious that it even had extended individually. Glandelinians disliked christian people like we dislike a deadly reptile and despised them. Abbisannians hated Glandelinians like a saint hates a wicked fiend. And so many spies of the enemy had posed as men or boys of strange nationalities, that no one could be trusted unless he could prove his true character. Even a stranger to carry a Rosary or a sacred Article was not enough, as Glandelinians did that for disguise. And also what the enemy had done already, the long succession of dreadful disasters of all kinds, the victories the enemy had won afforded some justification for the Abbisannian's opinion of the enemy. Therefore to the christians the Glandelinians were absolutely contemptible. Of course in battles the foe showed as much valor far inferior to that of the christians, and indeed the Glandelinian victories or those that were won were due to two causes. In the first place, the superior physique and stamina of the fierce Glandelinians the result partly of race, better ammunition and war materials, and partly of feeding they were consequently to fight and charge and endure faster and longer than could their christian adversaries. In the second place however the wicked Glandelinians went into battle with an absolute conviction that he was going to be victorious by fair means or foul, while the Angelinians on the other hand, although were numerous and determined to do his best to win had from the first doubts whether the Glandelinians would not be as usual victorious.

It is probable because of the awful desolating scenes of war produced by the foe, the Angelinians hated the Glandelinians more than the enemy so far did them. The christians had lowered their national prestige, had defeated them whenever it was necessary, but the Glandelinians too had also lowered the national prestige of their christian foe to a further extent, and had revenged the case of the Abbisannians having blockaded their ports, ruined their international trades, inflicted immense damage upon their fisheries, and subsidized other christian nations against them and was the heart of the center of the coalition against wicked Glandelinia was struggling so desperately to maintain herself.

But Glandelinia fought her war in a treacherious way proving that what she was, thought of by Abbisannia to be true. It is not therefore surprising that about the whole force on board the raft there were many who for a time that night and the next day viewed the German lad with hostile distrustful eyes, and only refrained from personal violence owing to the strict order of their girl and other leaders, who had stated that though for a time he was looked upon as a "prisoner" he should be well treated. In the meantime his true character should be tested."

Toward midnight a strong gale rose from the southwest and the same fog was driven toward land, and more lokouts were stationed on high points. There was little fear of any Glandelinian pursuers having come over so far toward their own course, but Glandelinian scouting cruisers might be anywhere. But nothing but wreckage flots thick as ice on a cold frozen sea could be seen at intervals sometimes far out on the sky horizon, but as the raft still was not forging ahead the leaders of the night shift had no idea of commencing operations untill morning should dawn. The German boy because of the heat could not sleep for a time and as he lay awake could not help admiring the size of the raft, and although he knew he was a captive, and every mile that would be reelled off would take him further away he felt sure he was better off a prisoner among them, than among the enemy.

He could also see the trimness and every make of the raft and as for as the building and so forth went they were vastly the superiors of any one he had ever seen, and the raft looked to the german boy almost like one of those made for mere show in its cleanness and order, and in these respects vied with anything he had ever seen in his life. Toward the time he got up very early in the morning he was given work rubbing and polishing the guns and brasswork, and was not idle for a moment from the time the daylight began to show and when he came dressed as one of the other boys. There were two girlscout officers about his own age at that time on the forward part of the raft, and as soon as his morning work was done, they began to question him, and they were Dolores, and Jean...

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Fortunately Angeline jennings came up and she said;

"Girls this young stranger boy is at present one of the members of our force though a captive, and he is just the same right to fair treatment as anyone else so please do not be severe with him untill you know whether he is an enemy in disguise or not. I know enough too of these real German or english boys to know that even us in a fair fight would not have the least chance with him. He could thrash six of our boys at once. So I advise you girls be good to him and leave him alone, and if he turns out a friend he might fight for us like a german lad does. All the time I was a prisoner I know what it meant not to receive fair treatement at among the foe. And before this voyage is over it is not impossible the tables will be turned, and that we all may findourselves prisoners in the hands of the foe, so I recommend to you to behave to him in the same way you would like to be treated your self. I do not believe he is an enemy in disguise. I can see the lad is good tempered and willing. That is the opposite of Glandelinians. He is a stranger here among us all, he can't speak but little of our language, and he has a right to fair treatment. When he gets to know our language he will be able to shift for himself but untill he does Gertrude and I mean to look after him, and anyone who plays tricks on him has got to answer to me."

As Angeline jennings was one of the most powerful in authority and active girlscout leaders on board the raft, next to Gertrude. Angeline, this assertion was sufficient to put too stop all suspicious questioning of the lad, and he had a much easier time of it than he had expected. The scouts finding him willing to work and anxious to befriend and oblige in every way, and to say his prayers morning noon and night,, and to attend Mass and Holy Communion readily suspected his true character that day and took to him, and by paying attention to their talk, and asking the Angelinian name of every object on board of the raft it was not many minutes even before he found himself able to understand that he could obey orders, and do do anything requested of him. That morning the wind had dropped again, and more sail was set to the raft, and when the word was given to go aloft he went up with the rest and he was just as good at loosening the gaskets as any and he had no feeling of discomfort, and nervousness for he was to their surprise as quick and active aloft as any of them on board the huge raft. After the raft was finally broken loose from the floe it was headed a little westward, though they kept the shore in sight. A vigilent lookout was now kept two being always stationed aloft and by the increased animation of the rest the boy judged that they hoped to arive at a point where they should head for some stretch of land where they hoped to beach it for the time. He had therefore quite made up his mind that, as these were foe of Glandelinia he would even take part in a fight against the Glandelinians, whether he was commissioned or not, unless ordered otherwise. As soon as the light came a little better and at seven bells the boy found that the whole of the upper sails had been taken off the raft and the top sails lowered on the cap, and the raft was only moving through the water at the rate according that the paddlers could pull her against the current. He guessed that this was done to because they might be heading into the tracts tracks of wreckage floes, and that her object in thus taking off sail was to catch sight of dangerous debris or perhaps ing foe vessels lalong nehr shore in the distance, while she herself would be unobserved by them. During the course of tim before breakfast, several immense masses of debris were seen passing, and bodies interminglied but all at a considerable distance. Nither the leaders did not think it safe to go too far out or they did not like the looks of some of the passing wreckage floes --but at any rate they made no movement to come too close with any of them, and it was not untill a little breeze sprang up that sail was again hoisted and the raft allowed to go on her course, and the men allowed to rest from paddling.

Just like at midnight many were on the watch watch and from time to time, this girlscout, boy scout officer and so on frequently swept the north waters, and the shore with their field and other glasses. He apparently observed nothing untill about just at the call to breakfast, eighty o'clock while one of the girls stood for some time gaz gazing intently astern. Then she turned, gave an order to one of the boyscouts, who went to another quarter, and two or three minut s later Angeline Riches came on deck. He gasped, he though she was an angelic apparition. After speaking to the girl scout officer she too gazed intently astern. Then the raft was for a moment stopped, and then the course was suddenly changed, the sheets eased off and for half an hour she ran at sharp angle to the course she had before been following then she was brought up into the eye of the wind, and laid to..

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Although the German boy strained his eyes in the direction which the superior girlscout officer had been looking, she could see nothing, but she had no doubt seen something comingup astern, and that the object of the change of course was to let it pass without an accident.He rather wondered that in stead of running off in the wind, the girlscout officer had not put her about so as to take her position to th the windward instead of to leeward of the floating peril behind, but he soon arrived at the object of the manoeuvre. There was no sunshine to be seen, and the banks of smoke clouds overhead stretched away to the west, and the horizon to the east was entirely veiled up like hellfury in smoke but to the west the sky was lighter, and a huge mass of debris logged with floating houses, trees, and immense "booms" of dreadful articles could be seen clearly visible to the eye.If the raft got in the path of us, there would be frightful loss of life.The raft therefore in the position she had taken up was to avoid a collision, while those on board could obtain a full view of the danger as it passed.In about half an hour the menance came along.It was a mass of debris, interlogged with masses of trees, huge boards and timbers, railroad ties, houses,and every kind of household furniture, and things tightly intermingled, and clogged with bodies and pieces of iron held fast by the mass, and all who had come forward to see now clustered against the fence r i railings, and eagerly discussed it.It was about a quarter of a mile to windward, and opinions different as to whether it would float shoreward and jam up or continue on down the.floods.The German boy wondered that the crews on board the raft had not tried to get alongside as far as it was safe, and take some needed articles on board, but he understood now when he asked, that there was a strong possibility that the a mass might by some freakish act of the floods current swing some unusual way, and then the raft would be crushed.As soon as the dangerous mass had passed, the branches were manned and the yards swung round, and the raft continued her course. The raft indeed had come pretty close to the mass no matter how much asterne

That morning jean told her story of her experience on the land before she had returned to the raft. It ran as follows:;;;

"I was a pleasded comrades after landing ashore of giving the a ip slip to the glandelinians who had retreated before our men, that for a time I began to enjoy myself and look around me with some interest on the strange land that I was in.I had crossed a dry tract of high pines, bulrushes, weeds of all kinds and off odd outlandish trees and then had come out upon the skirts of an open piece of undulating; sandy country, about a mile long,dotted with a few pines, and a great number of contorted trees not unlike the oak in growth but pale in the foliage like willows.On the far side of this open stood one of the long smoke covered hills with two bright glares at different points, shining vividly as a bright sunset or sunrise.

Though there was danger I felt for the first time the joy of exploration. I feared not the glandelinians, you can cope with them when armed, but who can fight a forest fire with guns.The region seemed quite uninhabitated, and my comrades that is the soldiers , had left to ruh before me clearing the territory of skulking Glandelinians,;;;, and there was no kind of creature in front of be and not even dumb animals or birds of any kind..I turned hither and thither among the trees.Here and there were what had been left of flowering plants but now dried up by the heat; plants unknown to me, here and there I saw snakes, crawling away and one raised his head andpuffed his knock and made a strange noise at me with his tail:I knew it was a deadly reptile and I shot its head off,as I knew it was a Rattlesnake. Then after pausing for a while to look at the fire I came to a long thicket , of these strange oak like trees, mingled with evergreen, and trees which looked so much like have branches of the form of carrot plants and ferns which grew as thick as what in a field the boughs curiously twisted, the foliage one a compact like tatch. The thicket seemed miles in extent and stretched down from the top of one of the sandy knolls, spreading and growing taller as it went untill it reached the margin of the broad ready fern and other weeds.The heat was strong and a smell a was in this thick thicket like that of burnt time, and the outline of other hills appeared dark against the glare of distant fires.

All at once there began to go a sort of bustle among distant growths , a sound of crackling like many rifles being fired, anot/ another followed, and soon over the whole surface of the region beyond a great cloud of smoke rose, mingled with a sudden wall of flame roaring upward into the air.I judged at once that my comrades must be drawing near along the borders of the growth and if they were not watchful the fire would trap them.Nor was I deceived, for soon I h a heard the ' low tones of human voices at some great distance, which as I continued to listen,grew steadily lower and nearer.....

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Th e fast and sudden appearance of such a parching stretch of flame, though fortunately not coming my way put me in a great fear, as not knowing also who the the men were,,, I crawled under cover of the nearest pine trees, and lay there, harkening as silent, as a mouse, and watching the wall of crackling flame at th e same time.,nother voice answered,, and then the first voice, which she now recognised as Long Johns, once more took up the conversation, and ran on for a long while in a stream only now and again suddenly interrupted by the other.By the sound they must have been talking earnestly, but no distinct word came to my ear, as the roar of the flames interrupted the sounds some--- what. At last as the flames grew worse and brighter, the speakers seemed to have paused, and perhaps to have sat down, for not only did they cease to draw any nearer, but the very flames began to grow nearer and hotter, and high higher.And now I began to feel that I was neglecting my business, that since I had been so fool hardy as to come ashore, amidst danger from flames and wt wrt wretched Glandelinians, the least I could dowas to watch out o for them, and that my plain and best duty was to try and find them and rejoin my own conrad es as soon as possible.I could tell the directions of the speakers pretty good, not only by the sound of the voices, but also by the light of the flames that seemed to stretch at times even above my head, far up radiating a great heatt. Crawling on all fours to avoid the parching heat, and toprevent my clothings from catching fire, I made steadily but slowly toard them, till at last raising my head to an aperture among the leaves, I could by the light of the flames see clear down into a little green de ll beside a dried up marsh, and closely set about with tall sparley like trees, where our captain Long John,and a number of his officers were in conversation.

Evidently the hat of the flames beat full upon them.Long John had thrown his hat beside him on the ground, and his great smooth face, all shining with heat, was lifted toone of the mens in a kind of appeal.

"Comrade"he was saying"It's because I think the world of you.If I hadn't taken you this distance do you think I had been this far?If we all stay here much longer, all's up non o none of us can make or mend, it's to save ourselves from annihil annihilation that I am speaking, and f if the enemy came back again in fullforce, and with this fire sweeping nearer, and nearer, where would I be Tom, now tell us where we would be?"

"John."said the other man--and I observed he was not only red in the face and sweating because of the heat, but was as hoarse as a crow, and his voice shook too likes taut rope----"John said he"you're old and honest, and you are brave or mistaken.And will you t il me you'll let yourself give up the hunt for Jesse not you.As sure as God sees me'd sooner lose my hands. She 's gone toofar intothe interior here, and what with the fire, and the Glandelinians,, she'll per perish. If we turn off and abandon the search, now?--"

And then all of a sudden he was interrupted by a noise.I had found that they supposing I was lost were in search of me, well here at that moke moment came news of the real peril.Far away out in the marsh there arose all of a sudden a terrible sound, like the cry of yells of demons, then a whole tumult on the back of it, and then one long horrid long drawn scream of curses and blasp blasphemies, added by the sound of sudden gusts of firing.

The distant hills re-oched it a dozen times, and from a far distant by the glare I saw a whole troop of something dark rise like marshbirds, there was a sail simultaneous crash of musketry,and the sound of men yelling and running somewhere in confusion and panic, and long after that horrid sound was still ringing in my ears, silence had re--established its empire, and only the crackling of burning trees and foliage disturbed the languid languor of the early evening.

Tom leaped suddenly at the sound, and so did the others with him, except Long John, who had not winked, an eyes.He alone stood where he was resting lightly on his feet, watching in the direction of the sound like a snake about to spring.

"John"said the man stretching outone hand and pointing"Look there."

"Everybody hands over to the brush."cried Long John, and jumping back leaping back twoyards as it seemed to be with the speed and security of a trained monkey."Glandelinians are coming."

"We are under brush now if you like John."said the other."But it's a black conscidence that can make us afraid of anything.But in heavens name, tell me what was all that sound, that horrible noise?"

"That?"returned Long John, smiling away but warier than ever his eyes a mere pinpoint in his big face, but gleaming like a crumb of glass."That?"Oh I reckon that'll be Glandelinians ambushing some of our men."

And at this good Tom flashed out like a hero.

"Glandelinians ambushing our comrades." he cried."Then if their troops are slaughtered rest their souls like true saints.And as for you John long you've been a comrade of mine, but we shouldn't be hiding here.If we die

like a dog at the hands of the Glandelinian cutts we'll die in our duty.But I defies the Glandelinians I do."."And wh with that this brave fellow turned away and set off towrd the direction of the sound despite the cries of John and his comrades.But he was not destined to go far.With a cry, John, and his fellows leapedout of sight, and a shell exploding near by drove its fragments in every direction.Onepiece struck poor 4 Tom foremost,and with stunning violence and speed right between the shoulders, in the middle of his back, going clean through.something missed me, as I saw his hands fly up, then he gave a sort of gasp, and fell.something also hit Long John but whether he was injuredmuch l or little none could ever tell.Then a number of glandelinians appa appeared agile as monkies, and they were on top of the others in a moment, but the ten others with John had goodplace of defense and shot down the Glandelinians as fast as they came on, appalling the rest, and as they continuedthe fire routed the others to shelter.One glandelinian still rushed at Long John and he whipped his rifle out of his arm pit and sent that uncouthmissle hurtling through the air.It str e struck the glandelinian butt foremost and with crushing violence right between the eyes.another as this rebel fell dead sprang at John, and was on top of him,the next moment but twice Long John succeeded in burying his long kri knofe up to the hilt in the gr aycoats chest,and he leg let go of John and fell.From my place of hiding I could hear him pant aloud as he struck the blows.Then I saw a black object coming upon me from behind,I quickly raised my pistol which I had drawn and brought it down.It however was not a soldier but a fleeing wof wolf which had not seen me.Then from somewhere there was an earsplitting xrash like the loudest thunder, and for a moment to me the world seemed te swim away from before me in a whirlingmist, the flames seemed to surge forward, and there was the crash of conflict somewhere, and then something hi hit me on the head,and everything before me seemed to go round and round and topsy turvy before my eyes,and all manner of bells were ringing in my ears and distant voices sou shouting in my ears.However I succeeded in recovering by rubbing my head vigoriously toprevent the faint that might have come from the force of the thing that struck me.I then saw that the rest of the Glandelinians were retreating, but firing as they went.Just before Long John, one of his comrades, and Tom, and seventeen Glandelinians lay motionless upon the reddened sward. "Don't pursue the devils"he shouted as the men were going to spring recklessly forward."I'll be suicide."

Everything else seemed rotten now, the flames were still raging fiercely and mercilessly and I could persuade myself hardly that an attack had actually been made with murderous fury within my very sight, and so many human lives cruelly cut short a moment since before my eyes. I realised now what war is.

Oneof the leading glandelinian officers as I saw him retreat, put his hand into his pocket, and though Long John brought him down with a shot, the soldier only wounded, brought out a whistle and blew upon it several modulated blasts. that rang far across the heated air.I could not I could not tell of course the meaning of the signal, but it instantly woke my fears. More glandelinians would be coming.I even might be discovered.They had already slain three of John men; and might I not come next?

Instantly as the flames now began also to come my my way I quickly but carefully exo extricated myself from my hiding place, and and started to crawl back again, with what s ee speed and silence I could manage, to the more open portion of the woods.As I did so I could hear lots of more shots, hasty coming and going, and the roar of the Glandelinian devil yell and the sound of fires elsewhere; and this sound of danger let me"wings." As soon as I was clear of the thicket, the fire came up in a surge, and I ran as I never ran before, scarce minding the direction of my flight so long as it led me from the murdering glandelinians, and as I ran fear, and fear grew upon me untill it turned into a kind of frenzy.

Indeed I surely felt as if I was lost.when the gun would be fired, I word red how I should even dare to try to go down to the raft, which those fiends in gray would be swarming around everywhere.Twould not the first of them who saw me wring my neck like a snipe's! .It was all over I thought.Good bye to all y my friends, good bye to.Gertrude, Angeline Ribbes, and everyone. It seemed there was nothing left for me but starvation or death by the hands of the foe or by fire.All this while however I was still running, and without taking any notice, I had drawn near to the foot of one of the long hills and was almost smothered in smoke.and here afresh flame brought me to a standstill, with a thumping heart.

CHAPTER NINETEEN. 296

A Secret on the

A SECRET ON THE RAFT...
GERTRUDES FORCED RENDEZVOUS...".
HOW THE RAFT WAS ABANDONED FOR A SHORT TIME.
THE RAFT MAKES ANOTHER TRIP.

From the side of the flame topped, and smoked covered hill,, a spout of gravel was dislodged, and fell rattling and bounding through the trees.I turned my eyes instinptively in that direction, and I saw a large number of figures leaping, spring, and running foes forwar with great rapidity and the nearest legged behind a tree, and fired a shot at me but missed.I knew they were more ,landelinians.In the darkness of coming night the figures seemd dark and gro grote sque in the glare and for a moment thehorror of these new apparition brought me to a stand.I was now it seemed cut off upon both sides, behind me the fierce glandelinians; before me a horde of them coming to attack.And immediately I began to prefer taking chances with the dangers nearer shore to these.The Glandelinians had me might have nine tenths out of sight and they any way appeared less terrible than these coming in front and I turned on my heel, and looking sharply behind me over my shoulder, began to retrace my steps in the direction of the boats.Instantly the figures came nearer,and some of them making a wide circuit ,began to head me off.I was tired, at any rate, but had I been as fresh as when I arose, I could see it was in vain for me to contend in speed with so many adversaries.From trunk to trunk the Glandelinians flit flitted like deers.They were Glandelinians I could no longer be in doubt about that.I began to recall what I had heard they do to children when they capture.I was within an ace of calling for help. But the mere fact that the Glandelinians were some distance back had somewhat reassured me, and my fear of the Glandelinians in front began to revive in proportion.I stood still therefore, and cast about for some method of escape, and as I was so thinking the recollection of my pistols flashed into my mind.As soon as I remembered I was not defenseless, courage again came to me, and I opened fire at the nearest.Suddenly a swi n swarm of men appeared from another direction.They were a large body of my courages, and the Glandelinians hastily made a retreat, and I was escorted back to the raft, but under fire.The Glandelinians were con cealed by this time.but they did not perside me or my followers, and we all as you know regained the raft yesterday evening without any more trouble.Why they didn't come and attack us on the raft was a wonder.They were strong in numbers."

"Maybe they didn't dare"said Gertrude.Then she told J a J a Jean of the young German boy she had rescued..Jean Had him brought to her.

"Who are you?" she asked.

"George Zimmerman." the boy answered."I've been in a Glandelinian prison camp, and I haven't e spoken to a christian for these last four years."

Jean could see that he was a whiter boy in color than any one on board the raft, who were nearly of Mexican color, and that his features though pleasing, were of german kind.His skin was unusually white, but where it had been exposed to the sun, especially his arms or hands they were tanned,and his fair eyes looked unusual to them.Gertrude had told her then when he had been picked up, of all beggar boys, that she had ever seen or fancied, he had been the chief for raggedness.He had been she said of clothed with tatters, of old child slave garment, and this extraordinary patchwork had been held together by a system of the mos t various and indeg incongruous fastenings ,brass buttons, bits of sticks and loops of tarpulin.About his waist he had worn an old brass bun buckled leather belt, which was the one thing solid in his whole dress.She had made him put on clothing like a boyscouts.

"Four years in a Glandelinian child slave prison camp."Jean cried.

"Yes."

"Were you a child slave or a prisoner."

"No.I was a prisoner, because I was foriegn."

"What did they intend to do to you if they had the chance?"

"Maroon me on some desolate island."

Jean had heard the word, and knew it stood for a horrible kind ofpunish punishment common enough among old time buccaneers in which any ofender is put ashore with only a littlepowder and shot and left behind some some desolate and si distant island.Of course she would believe anything of the Glandelinians for she had actually seen Glandelinians crucifylittle

boys and girls, by hammering nails into their hands and feet, and even driving nails through their necks or atomaches/.

"Prisoners 8 ur years among the Glandelinians, and then marooned for life." would have been my punishment because I was a christian forgiener."he continued,"though I never wore a uniform then, now kn nothing about the Glandelinians, and what they do.When I was a prisoner all I lived on was goats, and berries and hard tack.Of course while in camp as a prisoner they didn't seem to treat me harshly,, they allowed me to even talk with the slaves, but my heart ached for christian diet and company.I happened to learn quite a deal of your language while in the Glandelinian camp and so forth, for they speak your language do.Well many's the long night I've dreamed of home in Germany ---and woke up again, and found myself still a prisoner.I had thought to myself that if r ever escape, I will never forget my experience, and how those little child slaves live."

"you shall have better treatment here."said Jean.

All this time he had been feeling of the stuff of Jeans vest shaped red uniform jacket, examining her jockey like red hat with a large blue flume in it, looking at her shoes, and generally in theintervals of his speech, showing a childish pleasure in the presence of real Christians even though of a strange country.

"If we can ever reach the christian lines again."said Jean,"You shall be all shall if you wish be recieved into the army as a boy scout.But you must have or give your condon consent, and prove your character, courage, and mettle, and the ability of brain and muscle work."

"Ifyou ever get to the christian lines again!" he repeated.Why now who's to hinder you, or the rest."

"Nothing but the forest fire, and the flood,"was the reply.

"And right you are!" he cried."Now you, what do you call yourself little Jean."

"Jean Saunders." she told him."I'm a girlscout officer, rank as major."

"Jean Saunders!Girl sc u scout Major" he said, quite pleased, but a little surprised apparently."Well now Jean,I've lived through such a rough life that though I'm ashamed to say it, for fear of doubling on you, but which I'm sure was a rougher and harder life than you or your followers had,and which you'd be ashamed to hear of.Now for instance you wouldn't think I have lost my father, mother, and little sister in the flood would you, a pious set of people they were----to look at me!" he asksdde.

"Why no not in particular!""she answered.

"Ah well,"said he "but I had --and they were remarkably pious.I was always a civil pious boy,and can rattle off by Catwchism as fast as any one, and could tell one word from anothers;and here is what it comes to Jean for us coming to this country at this dreadful time, and it began with the commencement commencement of the war.That is when it began,, our home was burned by the enemy, we were driven from place to place, and our trouble went further than that, and so mycoormother had told me, and presi predicted the whole she did the poor good woman.But it was Our Blessed Lord who put me here on your raft.I've thought ot all out during the night, and I'm wondering what will be next.If you all will give me a chance, I'm bound I'll be good, and I see the way to it.And Jean" looking all around him, and lowering his voice to a whisper---I know a secret of the enemy.Who's the chief leader here!"

"Miss Angelinia Aronburg...."""said Jean...

For a moment Jean felt sure that the poor boy had gone partly crazy in his imprisonment among the Glandelinians, and then over the loss of his parents, and she seemed to have shown the feeling in her face, for he repeated gently|||

"No little gir, I'm not.I can almost read your thoughts, and you think I'm going crazy."No I'm perfectly sane and know all I talk about.I have a great secret.And I'll tell you what, when you know me more your leaders will make a boyscout out of me right here, Jean.Ah Jean Bless your soul, and Thank God, that your squadron here was the first who had rescued me.I know how many foreigners Have treated you Abbieannians but I'm not that sort.I'll reward you girls and boys to my best abilitiy, and the only thing I'm scared of is sin."

And at this there came sudenly a lowering shadow over his face, and he tightened his grasp upon Jeans hand, and raised a forefinger almost threateningly before her very eyes.

"Now Jean, you tell th me the truth,"It is not Mylstzes army moving so against general Riches!" he asksddd asked.

"Why,?"

"He's dangerous, the o scoundrel.He's the worst of the lot..."

At this Jean had a happy inspiration.she began to realize she had found a real goood boy indeed,and she answered him at once.

"We are I hope far from Mylstzes army, but I'll tell you true as you ask me"The Glandelinians ashore that threaten us, I'm sure are not any of Mylstzes men, they must be some swarms of Manleys men -r Federals, worse luck for all of us.We are close to Evangeline t Claire cityyou know."

"Not that general Raymondsoj Richard Sonia Fedderal- -the man with the Henry The Eight style of hat, long black beard, and fierce black eyes!"He gasped.

"You mean Raymond Federal????" he she asked.

"Ah eitherone." he said."That are their names.If they are near we are on a dangerous venture believe me."

"But Manleys the chief, and the ringleader too." she continued.

He was still holding her by the wrist, and at that he gave it quite a friendly squeeze.

"If we risked passing that Glandelinian army near here,we are as good as hunted rats, and I know it.But were where were you and all these, bafore coming on the way here, do you tell?"

She had made up her mind in a moment, and by way of answer told him the whole story of her the voyage,and the constant predicament they all had found themselves.He listened to her with the keenestinterest, and when she had finished he patted her on the han d or head.

"Yo are a god little girl, Jean"he said, ah"and so are all the rest of you."and you are all in the frying pan, ain't you, hanging over hell.Well you just put your trust in my, George Zimmerson --I'm the boy who will find a way to do it.Would you think itlikely now that your leaders, would prove good minded; cool headedones in case of help-- all being in the frying pan as you remark?"

She told him all the officers were good and also liberal?

"Aye but you see little girl,"returned George;"I didn't mean giving me a rew ard for what I do,and much, that is not my mark Jean.What I mean is; would they likely to listen to anything I advise, and to do everything I suggest."?

"I am sure they would." Jean said."As it is all h officers were to share inmyour advice."

"And a chance to join as a boyscout!" he added with a look of great shrewdness.

"That is up to the Vivian Girls."she said:"We couldn't do anything on that line, but we'll give you an opportunity to learn all that so that youcan pass the examination.And besides we should want you to help work the raft home to emperor Vivians army or wherever we can go."

"Aye"said he"so you would." and he seemed very much relieved.

"Now I'll tell you what"He went on,"So much I'll tell you, and that can be all.I was in general Manleys camp still a prisoner, when he got into that bloody squabble at Cedarmine Creek-- he and six of his main Confederates--against sixteen best and better christian generals.His army was well on the retreat nigh on a week after the great conflict, and we were brought along.One find fine day up came a forest fire, and here came general vivians armies too by a new route, and his head done up in a blue scarf and wearing a long high rounded hat.The sun was rising behind the smoke clouds of battle, and smoke of fires, andmortal white he looked as his armies either were advancing upon us, duringour retreat, or retreating himself before the fire.But there he was, leaving behind his many dead who were buried.How he managed to elude the great fires, and continue topersue us not one of us could make out.It was first a murderous battle, and sudden death for countless thousands, leastways hundreds of thousands--him against six times his number.General pilly Jones of the Glandelinian army had been captured by the Nationals, and they it is saidkilled him because he wouldn't tell where Manley was retreating to and for.Well I was among the regiment of boy prisoners, and I came across the strange girl slave who finally enabled me to escape to Emperor vivians lines where I was recieved.At first as I was of foreign birth the Emperor was displeased at my presence, but I got a pull from one of the Vivian Girl Princesses later and twelve days I was all right.Before I came down here, the Vivian Girl Princesses disappared, and already for many days they have been trying to find them,, and every day they have had the worst word for the Glandelinians, untill one fine morning a officer by the name of Jack Johnston Evans went away to look for them, followed by Walter Starring and many of the Gemini.I wanted to go too but one of the boyscouts said-

"As for you George Zimmero Zimmerson,Here's a spade and a pickaxe.You must stay here, and let them go and find violet- and her sisters themselves,,, as you hadjust gotten away from the enemy, if you said, and if you are taken again well you'll rue the day you went.."

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Well Jean four years I have been in Hanleys army and not a bite of good food from that day to this.But now you look here, look at I'm.Do I look like a Foreigner so much as that many of you'll hate me like they do? No I hope not. And I can't help being of foriegn birth, and at first I didn't com to This part of mine own accord.My parents wanted to come to see the world."And with that he winked and picked jean hard....."Just you mention what I have told you to any of your superior leaders, Jean----"he went on,"That it's was not mine fault for why I am here.your years mind you I was in the hands of your vile Glandelinian enemies,, working whether it was ,light or dark, rain or shine, fire, smoke or heat, worked in peat bogs,and if I dared even seem to think of prayers I got cain.Thewas t of my whole life time seemed taken up into those awful.four years.But as they had not intended me to be a slave, I was forced to wear a Glandelinian boyscouts uniform, and drill with their own boy scouts whether I wanted to.Just tell her or them all and then I may not be a prisoner any longer, that willput a precious sight of confidence in me --a precious sight mind that, in a boy line I am."

"Well"Jean said."I ill do what I can for you on that line, as I was appointed to be the one to take you into possession.You must be tested for proof and I'll need not even tell them anything as they'll see without being stold.But if you know very much how are we going to get this raft through all the debris.on the shore and in this water. nd where is there a safer place to land.?"

. "Ah"said the boy,"that's the man mystery for sure.You see Jean. w the way things looks; I'almost fancy we are not human beings at all, and that we are all in Ourgatory, yet exempt from burning in flames but beset with all kinds of misfortuned just the same.I could not tell myself, where I came from, when my parents brought me on the skiff.You see we couldn't see in the dark but thought it safer on the water than on the land.If the worst comes to the worst; and you trust me, we might try something after dark.Hi he broke out"what's that?"

For just then, although the sun had not even appeared through the smoke haze in the sky all the echoes of the landscape and over the waters awoke and bellowed to the thunder of cannon.something heavy crashed near the raft, and great geysers of water shot upon the raft, drenching a number who had been standing near the edge.

"Glandelinian soldiers on shore sighted us, and are opening fire,,,"Jean cried."We have been under fire fire before.Follow me, but dodge as shells might hit the rafttt frst...""

And she began to run tward the anchorage of the raft, her excitementvall forgotten, while close at her side; the boy foriegner trotted easily, and lightly.

"Keep to the left"said Jean.Keep to your left and don't mind me.We don't want toexposeourselves. The cannon shot was followed by others,and by a volley of small arms, and a solid shot crashed across the raft, splitering up two wagons,and frightening some of the horses, which broke loose from their stalls, ha and had to be quisted.

"Look"said the German lad." "Ah there's the Glandelinian artillery.I can see by the puffs of smoke.You see the mounds? If you had some good guns and gunners now, but your machine guns won't reach that far."

"The bst thing we can do"said Jean is to go on and getout of their range."

Another pause, and then not twomiles on shore in front of her Jean beheld the Glandelinian flag fluttering in the air above the wood.A cry of "halt"came from shore, but there was no answer from the raft.

Despite this confusion the lookout ahead ----shouted!!!!!

"Big wreckage Ice ahead.We'll crash.Warn the paddlers."

Every one who dared to face the shell fire raced ahead to see, and the paddlers started working like mad.This was indeed a large stretch of wreckage, and intermingled with it, were three large vessels, houses, by the dozen, and a tangled mass of trees, with dead leaves , and for some time, opinions different, whether, the enemy caused it to come their way, or the flood, and to avoid it, all sail was atonce crowded on to the raft, while many soldiers on shore opened fire at the enemy to cover their motive and toprevent the artillery from shooting at their masts..... However ten minutes or more showed that the raft of wreckage and floating ships and houses wasmuch the much faster.The sh Raft therefore took in the extra canvass she had set,and continued her course if altogether regardless of the enemy on shore.

A crash of cannons sounded on shore, and a shell exploded overhead, but did no damahe and others exploded in the water, and one on the wreckage sending a cloud of boards and timbers high into the air air ..

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"The Glandelinians have made up their minds to stop us too if they can."Jean said to George the German Boy."As we cannot also outrun the debris floe we have put on on to easy working canvass, and our men are going to blast the floe and tear it asunder if possible before it strikes or we'll be jammed, and the Glandelinians will have a chance to come on and board us.One of the vessels jammed in the wreckage is a big one.It may be that we can avoid it."

Cannons again thundered on shore, but the shots flew wide of the mark.

The raft of debris kept following to windward, untill it gained apposition about a mile upon the starboard of the raft, then the long pivot gun on board was leveled and the first shot fired.The raft of debris was torn asunder with a loud noise.The crew had already taken their places by the other guns, and George Zimmermon and other boys brought forward shells and grape to answer if no possible the fire from shore.He hadjust brought forward plenty when the big gun was fired, and saw the eruption among the debris.Just then another gun went off on shore and he saw the water thrown up jjust near the edge of the raft, and the shot danced away to leeward.The next shot struck the raft, alongside breakingone log and sending spray of water over every one nearest. It was not without a struggle that George Zimmermon brought himself do do what Jean advised, but he saw that a refusal to listen to her advise would probably cost him his life, as the enemy on shore was unsu unusually dangerous.The next shell struck and ploughed across the raft.A moment later a broadside of twenty cannons were fired.Two of them stuck the raft in the center, another wounded the main mast, while the rest cut holes through the sails and struck the water a quarter of a mile to windward.With an oath the captian of the soldiers on b a board the raft brought the raft upon up into the wind, and payed off on the other sbtack.The Glandelinian artillery was much heavier than those were on the raft.As the broadside was fired it was seen that the shore was thronged with graycoats.

To make things worse it was seen Glandelinians were taking the chances to put off into the water in fast gasoline cutters, and therefore the raft was hove to and guns trained with the purpose to blow the boats out of the water.George remainedout of sight for some time at the advise of Jean, he heard the men savagely cursing the Glandelinians, and thought it was best for him self not to attract attention at present.The sails were lowered, and those at the paddles worked furiously to getout of range, but a little after the wind suddenly began to rise and George heard a creaking of blocks, and knew that the sails had been hoisted again.Half an hour later everyone who was able were ordered to prepfare for trouble.George appeared with the rest.For a quarter of an hour he could see nothing, but a fog, which no doubt had hid the raft from persuers and from the gunners on shore, but he beheld a dark mass a few hundred yards to leeward, immediately afterwards the helm was put up,and the raft ran down twerd a floating derelict of a ship that was very long in the the water.The ship proved to have been a short of river passenger craft,and when the raft was brought alongside, a large number of men sprang on board.There were found twenty half starved flood refugees on boardmostly women and children and they were brout aboard the raft.The men of the raft at once set to work upon her.At first George could not understand what they were about, but he was not long in discovering.The wedges round the main mast were knocked out the topmast lowered quickly to the deck,the shrouds and stays slacked off, and then the mast was lifted and carried on board the raft.As soon as this was done, the raft was cast loose.The refugees had already been brought to the big raft, and were given food and drink. What Gertrude desired very much was if she could have secured a tug boat she could have some one run it and pull the raft.This if she had luck, she would reach in safty but if on the way they would fall in with dangerous glandelinian batteries on shore the raft of course would fall an easy prey.By the sound of things, she knew the raft was still followed, as she could hear the "chug,chug chug"of the Glandelinian Revenue cutters.

No sooner was the boat cast loose from the raft, then the soldiers set to work to lift out the injured mast, and to replace it with that they had brought on board from the derelict ship.When the smoke started to clear anxious glances were cast to the rear but the persuers still seemedout of sight or at least some of them were following a coursethat would bring them near the raft, and the latter without sail and with her fore mast standing alone would not be likely to be noticed at once. George could not help admiring admiring the energy with which the crew worked.Ordinarily they were a very smart crew of men for they did their work quicker than ordinary sailors usually could have done for each man felt the importance of getting everything into order before any of the persuing enemy gasoline boats appeared,and so well did they work that by midday the new mast was in its place, and before one oclock even the topmast with all its yards and gear was up, and the sails ready for hoisting.

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George Zimmermon had been in somewhat of a state of anxiety in the early part of the day; lest the Glandelinians might attack the raft in a large number of boats, and board or capture it; and he too be captured and carried off a prisoner to Glandelinia. nd noone during the excitement see med to give a thought to him and it was not untill far on into the morning that Gertrude happened to notice him hard at work with the rest despite the fding going on."Ah there you are sonny!"she said."Good thing the Glandelinians have not captured us, or you would have been from the frying pan into the fire."

Of course she spoke in her own tongue, and the lad did not very well under stand the words to a regular course, but he guessed at the meaning, and said with a smile."I was quite content to remain therevI am.There'd been many shot before they would have had me, as I'm a good shot."

"Tell him Jean Saunders, as you can speak some good english, that I have noticed that he behaves and works very willingly, and as long as he behaves as well as he is doing, he shall have the same treatment as if he belonged really to us; but warn him that if-he is not careful and shows his face too much to the edge of the raft those glandelinians will kill him sure."

Jean translated the warning.

"That's all right.George said."Of cou rse I should expect nothing else if I am reckless.I know the glandelinians more than she does, without meaning to make an argument."

As soon as the repairs were completed, the sails were hoisted by twelve thirty oclock, and the raft proceeded on her way.It was now the seventh of August .It the hours that were to follow it seemed to George that the tat tact ics of the Glandelinian persuers have changed, and that there seemed to them no longer any ideas of overtaking the raft.However a sharp lookout was kept for any of these Glandelinian pere s persuers, but no attention was paid to any wreckage drift inthe distans as soonas it was determind determined that they were at not dangerous.wominutes later instead of being as before five or six persuing glandelinian Revenue cutter boats in sight in the rear the flood waters was absolutely deserted.He remarked upon this to his friend Jean.The latter laghed.

"They don't dare risk the flood too far my lad.We are near soon toour point of landing, and we are now pretty well off the land from the danger point I hope.Unless the enemy extends his l inew, and it was a general army and not a mere group we shallnot run across many more foes."

"Where are we going to then?" George asked.

"Well I don't think there is any harm in telling you now son,that we are bound northeastward, but how far that land is we want to reach is more than I know.It looks nearer than it is.As the shots did a little damage toour raft, we expect also to try and pick up some useful pieces of floating wreckage providing we are at be not bothered anywhere else as we were bfore with those glandelinians and their cannons, for some where I'm sure they were so that one could at not merely make a sound without bringing them down on us.I don't supposeour good leader would have risked an en engagement with the enemy yet, though she knows we all would like to pay the enemy some debts we owe for our own losses in lives recently.As to the floating ship we were obliged to run alongside of her to get a new mast.Lucky we did; or we would at not have found the refugees and they would have prished perished.It would never do to have continued on our long cruise with a badly injured spar even on this raft."

"But I should think it would be difficult tl nad anywhere now with foes everywhere about." George said.

"Well you see, ath although the flood had taken away most ofour best hopes to going anywhere, there are some points we can land if we try to find them. I don't fear the foe, neither do the rest, its the fires we dread.Besides if we are too badly persued, or hard put to it, we can take the best goods but and if the raft is n in danger of capture we can fight the foe off to good advantage on shore behind rocks and trees.Then too one can spare lots of men and because onlyone quarter among us have'nt machine guns, so you see we could surprise the enemy good if we deve defended ourselves.What we propose to do is to land at some unseen place, and attack the enemy ourselves."

"You do."Yes."! Why girl it's madness!"

"We did it before, and we can do it again!"

"But you girls can't do that in the case of these Glandelinians."

"You do not understand.We have 10?000 men on this raft, and we are two hundred twenty boys in number, and three hundred girls.We girls and boys can shoot as good as the soldiers.There is little risk of recapture or any chances ofosing the raft, and if we did we can find means tovretake her again.And if peril presses too hard, we have only to hoist the Glandelinian flag to fool the enemy."

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George was glad to hear that the raft was bound to land ashore someplace as he thought opportunities for escape from flood and the enemy would be lie likely to present themselves somewhere.A Little flooded village called Maderis was insight but there was s no one seen. By dint of getting Jean to translate sentences into Abbiannian, and of hearing nothing but that language spoken round him, George had by this time began to make better knowledge he had of the language as far as he had been able to learn it:Not only was he anxious to learnvit for the sake of passing away the time, ad and making himselfunderstood, but his great efforts were unusually stimulated by the fact that if any of the girls or boys addressed him in Abbiann ian a laugh was generally the penalty to of a failure of comprehend them.Now George was able to understand almost everything that was said,and to reply in Abbiannian with some fluency As the raft moved along the wooded smoky shores George was leaning against the railings watching with deep interest the objects they were passing.

"I can gu ess what you are thinking about." Jean said, taking her place quietly by his side."I have been through it all myself; and I can guess your feelings.You are thinking how we can escape this water, and the in ferno and the other difficulties.Now you take my advise and don't hurry about it. So far we are all doing well where we are.Now too you have been able to talk our language andunderstand orders, and it is a good deal easier for you than it was, and our whole force a is beginning to regard you as one of ourselves, but you my may be sure, you'll be tried yet, before we can get you the papers which says you "are"one of us.You see none of us dare to do a thing without the consent of Emperor Vivian.If we were to make you one of us without his knowledge, when you have not put in your enlistment papers we'd get into trouble."

"Why because I'm a foriegner?"

"Not at all.That concerns any boy or girl.If it was not for that, I don't suppose our highest captian Miss Richee would object toput you into our Company as a boyscout one bit.All of us have certainly taken a fancy to you, and are pleasee d with the way in which you have taken things; and with your smartness and loyalty to us.We see though to , you are a German boy only, you have the feeling, that Glandelinia too is your enemy, and there fore you are not considered altogether as a prisoner, as you first were.Runn ing you down as that ship did, was not to a bad cause after all; and I think if even Gertrude Angeline our Suprior could see a way of letting you be one of us scouts without risk to herself, she would do it.As she can't do that, she has had a sharp watch kept on you, and therefore found you are not wanting, so I advice advise you not to be in a hurry trying to get in yet.You must remember, too that it takes a lot of red tape to get in.I and my sister tried a year before we succeeded.But we can do it for you quicker as we can give you the pull.But you must wait till we reach some Christian port, or army."

"I should be in no hurry at all, Jean, if it were not that the Glandelinians, have done me dirt, and also from what I have seen in this these disasters, and what child slaves suffer.You know you feel the same way yourself for you and all the others have seen all this, andmore too."

"Yes, that is hard, no doubt."Jean agreed,"and I don't say to you, don't try to get in, when you get a chance, I only say wait untill the chance is a good one.We'll escape from here yet, and get somewhere.Just at present were are not specially on the lookout for justpersuers.We are go n going to try and landsomewhere, and see if we can get some provisions.We'll have to attack an enemy camp to get them.If we are persued we can find a snug hiding place somwhere, though I don't think anyone on board here, except Miss Angeline Richee knows where."

For an hour now the raft had continued slowly on its course.They had had no chances to pick up ant good pieces of boards or sidings from the floating wreckage drifts, and nevertheless Gertrude had no desire to commence any serious operations untill she had succeeded in her own purpose, and obtained information somehow as to how everything may be even on that portion of the shore she wished to land the raft. They had come upon a number of float ing houses, even with people i on their roofs or in the attics, and managed to rescue them, and cautiously asked them questions as to the nature of the shore. The answers were not satisfactory from the refugees.They learned that own owing to the number of spies dep dreprediatingupon the glandelinian camps because of the search for the Vivian Girl Princesses, and also to the many attacks and raids and the cpares of many kinds of wagon trains and provisions by the christians, a very vigil ant lookout was being kept by the ene y, compands of raiding christians had been captured on ra fts too in the flood, and the Glandelinians were constantly in search of others that might be on

the waters.This indeed was very bad news,,,, for although the raft,,, with her great spread of canvass could in light winds light winds run away from any of the Glandelinian water ships sent from where, it was by no means certain she would stand any dangerous fire from Glandelinian long range batteries on shore, especially should the enemy discharge high explosive gun-gang shells.. It was just about probably quarter to one or a little later, that two long schooners, and a long brig---were seen coming round a headlong, not floating as ships go but any old way being born on by the flood.Those of the officers on board the raft examined the ships with their telescopes. They were good ships, not wrecks, and flags were at the mastheads.

"We are in luck if we could board one of those ships and find something." said Gertrude.."If we can get supplies we then can land where we design ed as we are only half a mile away now.It's a good rendezvous.I have got the spot marked down on the chart and it won't be difficult to find the safe entrance.In half an hour the raft came along side the ship, the raft was anchored to prevent it from going, the sails were lowered, and ropes thrown to prevent the first ship from going further.Then the men themselves and Gertrude and others came on board by climbing the ropes and ladders..However they were surprised to find the ship thickly loaded with many refugees and even crews of the ship, and the captain also.This to Gertrude if necessary would certainly be reinforce ment force big was their raft, that they had plenty of room for them.Gertrude proving herself to be the leaderto the ships captain went down with him into the c cabin.After a time they appeared again, and the fourty persons on the sh ip were transferred to the raft.Five minutes later the raft was again under way, and they left the derelict to float away alone."Ward two o'clock the raft approached a long high stretch of sandy land fringed with a dense fo est a xonsiderable distance beyond.George had no doubt that they were now close to the spot which she had designed to used use as a lan i landing place , but so far he could detect no sign s of glandelinians here, but he feared that the raft might be in dan er danger of capture or destruction.Not untill within a cables lei length of the shore could any sight of anyting anything of the fur f urthest portion of the shore be discovered with the kn keenest eye . Then as they were looking toard the shore a strange flaring light far away was seen,and in a moment later disappeared.An exclamination of surprise broke from all on board the raft for they now saw that something must be there. Theraft raft however was now in tranquil water, and the shore was seen to slope gradually up; and here and there several houses were stand ing.

"What do you think of thispiece of land; George?" Jean said exultantly. A grand hidingplca place for us too is it not."

"It is indeed." George replied."Why the enemy might pass here for weeks looking forour landingplace in this cave, and they wouldn't find it unless they passed by in row or motor boats."

As soon as the anchor was down, the crew were at once given leave to go ashore, and ramble about to stretch their legs, after their two days or more confinement on board.George was proceeding to take hisplace in one of the small boats, when Gertrudes eye fell upon him(.

"Come over to my tent with me young fellow."she said in Abbieahhish. "Jean I shall want you too."

"I don't think there issuch need of interpreting Gertrude"Jean said,as she followed the boy and girl into the ca tent."The lad can get far if on in our language now, and will certainly understand the sense of anything you may say to him."

"Look here my lad"Gertrude began:"You have surely been fairly treated since you came on board this rag raft. "

"Indeed Miss Gertrude every o ne has been very kind to me." George said respectively."And there is nothing that I need to complain of."

"And we saved your life; did we not:"?

"Yes Miss Gertrude. I acknowledge that and Gertrude"The boy said earnest ly."And I feel very grateful.As you might have made a real prisoner of me Had you chosen, and I am thankful to you that you kept me on board, and have treated me more of your own boyscouts."

"Now what I have to say to you is this lad,I know that you are comfortable enough on board,and I have also noticed that Jean here had taken you specially under her care.I have noticed you were work willingly,and behave well, as a good Catholic, andh we the making of a first class boyscout in you, and I understand that you would much rather be with us now, and would rather aid us in our adventures, and to fight for us even though you o are of German Nat o Nationality. I know you Germans, and you fight with the same spirit as Irish people do, or like the Americans.Consequently you will if you see an opportunity probably try somehow to be made a member of us. There is

nothing to prevent you do so my, but you are putting yourself under a peril ous adventure like we do, and Glandelinians will shoot you without hesitation as they would any of us.Still I cannot do it for you, untill I get orders, still as you have shown yourself a good reliable lad, and as I cannot h run the risk of having this landingplace discovered, andour raft captured, andour selves marooned here untill the flood recedes, I therefore ask of you a strange service.I know none one here would like to have the existance of this place revealed, and therefore though you are notone of us, and you are a foriegn boy I'm some time later going to have you try your mettle and go on guard duty and report anything suspicious you see.What do you say.Don't answer me hastily, and you do not have to take the oath unless you are convinced you can keep it, and do what you can to warn us of approaching danger.You are not bound, you know, as you are not in uniform or one of us.This is only a request."

George needed a moment to consider the prp proposal.The oath did not bind him in any way to renounce his own country, but simpity simply to go on so as to guard the sad secret of the rendezvous.He realized it was a perilous undertaking for if he remained here on shore, and Glandelinians made an attack there would be no chance whatever of escape; andnightmare ever most his death savagely at the hands of these vile vipers.

"I am quite ready to take the oath, to guard the secret of thisplace Miss Gertrude."He said."I so not think that in any case after having been so kindly treated by you I should refuse to do you and your followers such a favor, no matter what the riskmight be.And as you offer me the opertunity I am ready to take any oath as you offer me, and that oath I will assuredly keep whatever pressure of peril may be induced upon me, it beingunderstood of course that the oath in no way prevents me from taking any opportunity they that may present itself of making my escape if the Glandelinians do attack."

"That is quite under That is quiteunderstood."Gertrude said."That is a mere matter of business.You try to escape if you can, but nevertheless, the Glandelinians may shoot you done, so do not goo where escape is so hard to make.But I do not think you are likely to get into such danger, and that you'll succeed.But in justice to all my followers, and friends, and for my my countrys sause I should not be justified in Pi running even that slight chance unless convinced that if you succeed in your work, you will keep out of too dangerous territory.Otherwise I won't let you do this.Now what Oath will you take?"

"No oath can be more binding to me than my promise, Miss Gertrude, but at the same time I swear upon my word of honour that I willdo that sentinel duty and warn so as to prevent any foes discovering this lan dingplace."

"That will do ."Gertrude said."I have liked your face from the moment you were rescued and brought on board, and feel that I can trust your word.I'll let you know through Jean when you'll heaed to do that."

"I am sure you can trust me Miss Gertrude." The boy said.

"He is a trustworthy lad."Jean put in" r From what I have seen of the boy I am certain he will keep all the promises he has made.

"Very well then."Gertrude said."That is settled."You can go on shore on the nea next boat, n and I'should advise you to take the opportunity.In case it is necessary you need not come on board untill to morrow morning."

.Hal f an hour later George went ashore, with the last batch of girlscouts and some men.He found that a general license had been granted, and the men and all were bent upon makingup for the spell of severe disciplinne that they had lately gone through.Jean Saunders had gone ashore with the same boat that carried George.

"What are you planning to do George."?

"I am go ing for a walk."George said."In the first place everything is new here, I want to see whether we are safe from fires here, and in the second place I can see how the forests are and what kind of vegetation we might find.I too dread the fire more than I do the enemy."

"You are right boy, and I don't care if I go too, if you don't object having a girl go with you.We will take a drink of coffee before we start, and fill up our pockets with those sandwitches.I will get the quartermaster sergeant to give us a bottle of fresh milk to take with us, and then we shall be set up for the rest of the day.This is my first voyage in these parts but I have heard from others of many unseen perils we can face.Though I'm a little girlscout I can do my share of fighting when fighting has got to be done but I do not care to meet enemies here at a disadvantage.Still we can look forward to anythingunusual here on shore."

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George and the little girl each took a sandwitch and a draught of coffee, and soon afterwards started on their ramble provided with food as arranged.Both were surprised and delighted with the dense forests beyond, and wandered for a few minutes through the subsportion of the woods, admiring the high dry weedy flowers.Presently however they camupupon some fir trees.

"Now Said Jean"We better sit down and eat some supper.It must be coming tward supper time, and I can tell so, because I surely feel hungry, and what was only one sandwitch."

"Jeanxsat down on the ground and was about to throw herself full length , when George observed a movement among some bushes, the instant later the head of a man was seen and an arm was raised threateningly with a long knife within striking distance of Jeans head as she sank backwards.George gave a sudden short cry---too late however to arrest the movements of the little g ri girl----and at the same moment sprang forward, and came down with both feet upon the mans hand hearing it and the knife to the ground. He gave prowens by his howls.

The man struggled desperately to arise,and suddenly with the other hand drew a pistol, and fired at George, but missed, and George grasped the gun before the man had a firm grasp upon it and wrenched it loose.

"What on earth imup now?"Jean asked as she scrambled to her feet. There was no answer to this question but he as she saw at once that George was holding a man by the hand.with his feet.In a minute he had jumped away and the man getting to his feet beat it into the woods.

"That was a close shave,Jean"George said, smiling though his face was pale with the sudden excitement."I did not see the scoundrel creeping up untiil it was too late to give the warning.It was just the fraction of a second, and even as I jumped I thought he would strike you on the head with this long knife before my boot came on his hands."And he picked up a long sharp curving knife.

"You surely have saved my life my lad.the little girl said huskily, trembling from head to foot ,as she saw how narrowly indeed she had escaped from being k l killed by a sneaking Glandelinian in cold blood."I have been in some very hard fights ever since I beg became a girlscout but I don't know that I ever did feel as scared as I do now.Indeed I feel cold from head to foot, and I believe that a baby could knock me down.Give me your han d my boy..You did splendidly. If you had hesitated for a moment I should have been slain in cold blood sure enough, and maybe he'd have had you next..Good Heavens what an escape both of us hands.I bet more are looking for a a chance to kill us right Now."

"I amvgind to have been of service for once.You, and all the rest have been so kind to me since I came aboard the raft that it is fair that I should do you and others a good turn for once..I am not surprised you are shaken, for I feel so myself.But girl he was not a Glandelinian.His face was horrible.He was a skulking madman.He looked it all over, and his Hair my God.He looked a fright and foaming at the mouth."

"A man who is mad"she gasped."

"Yes. I'll bet he was some refugee driven crazy by hideous of home and dearone and that we looked to him in his crazed mind like Glandelinians and he wanted revenge.For I heard him whisper whisper before he tried to strike; "Here'some damn Glandelinian I'll get for revenge."

"Then I pity the poor man.I'm glad you didn't kill him.You had the chance to."

"If he was a Glandelinian I would have.We had better both have a drink of brandy, and then we can see about our meal."

No more lying down on the ground for me."Said the little girl.."Once is enough of such a thing as that.However Hand me the bottle.I shall feel better after that..... "

.George looked about, and r presently discovered an open space, free from fallen leaves or any other shelter, where the man man could come back without being seen and par suaded Jeanvto sit down, and eat her supper in some s comfort.The little girl did so but the smannar which her glances kept wandering round her in search of either the insane man, or the Glandelinians showed that she had not yet recovered from her scare. When they had finished their meal George proposed that they should climbup to the top ofone of the ice lowest hills they could find, and take a view over the country to see how things stoood.Two hours walking took them to the top of a lofty hill. From the summit which was partly frees of trees they were enabled to obtain a distant view.The landscape as far as smoke clouds would allow was as they judged rollingup in smoke cmouds of great thickness to the east for many leagues, andthe clouds seemed to reach many thousands of feet up as if what they viewed were great volcanic craters in activity.what was once a part of the land and farm countries, now only small islands lay within a few miles distant, and beyond beyond they saw within their very route of the raft a little further north a forest of trees barely out of the water, and

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high land rose twenty miles off, but so far that alone was entirely frees from smoke.

"This is a poor and creepy looking place."George said."Do you know where we are Jean????"

"I have no idea whatever."said the little girl."and I don't suppose anyone among our whole force except Gertrude or Angeline Nichee, or some ofour offic officers had ,any more than me.And the charts are all in Gertrudes possession, and I know no more of the geography of these strange places, than I do of the south seas, and that is nothing, though I have studied my Geography much much..It's best for us anyway to keep it a dark secret, because though I know no one among us would tell anything if ddntured because you see we each are trusted good before we can become a scout, and we all have a profit in the shares of the results of our so long campaigns, as well as our regular pay, and of course, we should lose everything, if any of our secrets were even known by the foe, and we are even now pretty well chocked upwith goods, and yet there is never no telling when some mean scamp might do it if he were offered a handsom reward.We have a cowardly scout which is kept a prisoner since he deserted me when in danger, so the fewer knows the secret the better, and he certainly does not."

"Look, look, look." Jean."Look at at full equipped m on monsterous wave of gray coated cavarly that has just come out from behind that hill over yonder.They look to me like the terrible Turnersmilians."

"And that they are surb indeed."said the little girl suddenly takeing her field glasses and giving a searching gaze in that direction..."There are tens of thousands of them, and more, and more coming, till they don't seem to have an end of to their number..No they are not ruler Turnersmilians after all George.But they are glandelinians no doubt.They look to me like the Ugly Gargoyilan Cavarly.Well we had better go down again lad.I must report this discovery to Gertrude. that an enormous body of glandelinian cavarly is advancing this way.It may be only a section of a main army that is near by.It will be three o'clock before we are back, and I don't want to be in these woods after dark, there's no saying what we might meet up with, those Glandelinians, the mad man or the fire, or even deadly serpents and dangerous animals that may be refugees of the fire.I thought that we would stretch ourselves out under the trees for to night, and go aboard the raft in the morning, but I feel different now.Bless you I should never close an eye..So as we know not what will come I propose that we go down so as not to be noticed by any foes that may be lurking anywhere else, and then get hold of a boat and row on board quiet."

"I am quite willing to do that, Jean.I don't think I should get much sleep either in the woods.I have a holy terror of that fire.See how the smoke is.It is terrible."

"No I guess you wouldn't lad..Come along w quick, the sun is about past the middle of the sky already, I can tell by the time on my wrist watch even if it is not shining and I would not be left in these woods, with the enemy, fire.and other dangers after dark, not for three hundred years stay in Our gatory for refuse.The thought of that madman makes me crawl over.I fear him not the glandelinians.I'd t rather battle a deadly reptile.Who would have thought now, when I myself helped to bring you in from the water after you were run down by the derelict boat, thatbyou were going to save my life some day..But I don't suppose my boy, I shall ever be quits with you,and anything you need you can count upon me..You come to me any time for anything you want and I'll help you do it, even if the Glandelinians fiddle me with bullets."

"I shall never ask you to risk your life for me ,Jean"George said warmly. "That wouldn't be like a boy..Indeed I can tell you that I do not consider that twenty four hours of kine kindness are wiped out by justing taking a desperate jump onto the hands of a madmans to wrest a knife from him."

There were loud shouts, and sounds of distant singing, as they passed near great fires that were bld ing near the entrance to the cove.They reach ed the waterside without notice from any hidden foes if there were any, and taking a boat rowed offf to the raft. Gertrude was standing by the railing as the boat approached, and she looked over the side.

"Who is that????"

"Jean Saunders, and the little German boy...Gertrude."

"You got tired of the sights on shore,,,I suppose?"Gertrude Angeline said.

"Not exactly that,Gertrude, for we have not been near any part of the big fires at all.We took a long stroll through the safest portions of the forests up to the top of the hill to our left, and we came back for two reaso e reasons. The first is because I was so badly scared by a madman who tried to kill me,. and who would have stabbed me in the neck had not this

brave boy leaped onto his hand, just as he was about to drive the long knife into me, that I would not have slept there for anything, and in the second place I believe we have laded on dangerous ground, for we came to tell you that from the top of the hill we saw a large column of soldiers on horseback probably Garglyloan Sph Schoodlers, I should say from the long robbed style of their uniforms---five or six miles off on the other side of the hill, and I thought you ought to know about it at once."

"Thank you jean, that sure is important.I was-going to renew the trip in the morning, but we must not stir as long as the glandelinians are in the neigh borhood, and wemust have all our men entrench.So this young German lad saved your life, did he?"

"That he did sure enough Gertrude, and indeed it was the quickest thing you ever saw.I was lying down at full length when he caught sight of the mad man crawling teard me, a long knife in his hand.There was no time to stop me, not even time for him to cry out.He just jumped on a sudden, and came down on the muts hand as he was on the point of striking at my head, he said!He he stopped for even a quarter of one second, I should have been brought back to you dead."

"You had indeed a very narrow escape ,Jean.Are the others pretty quiet on shore there?I have heard shouting and singing several times."

"That sound is from the Glandelinians we discovered, Gertrude"But they are sure to spot us if we don't secureplaces of hiding."

"I don't believe they can do us much harm."Gertrude said."I gave the strictest orders, that all the men should keep a lookout wherever they went and at the sligh test sound recoil to us.Besides Long john is over there to look after them.I will go ashore myself now, and take a look from the top of that hill.If those Glandelinians are still in the neighborhood it must be that it may be the main army, or cavarly may have got som sort of idea of the fact that we have landed here, and are coming to try and capture or dest destroy us.We mustwait till we can get to betterpositions.It won't do to risk anything."

During the following minutes, Gertrude, and Jean, and Dolores Mis- Hollester Jennings, accompanied by George, landed.They passed close to t a house where a large troop of their men were grouped talking or looking on, and Gertrude ordered all to follow her.To Long john who se saw s she said;

"Tell the other captians to get them on board the raft as soon as possible, all of my kids, and set them to work at preparing the raft, and get everything ready for setting sail at a moments notice.Tell them a column of Gargoylian Curdes is reported as close toour place of landing.Whether it is a big scouting party or the enemys main host we do not yet know.I am going up to look myself, and I'll take these men with me in case we need defense if the enemy should attack us up there...."

This time they went by horse, and ten minutes steady riding took them all to the top of the hilll. There were no signs of any Glandelinians as far as they could see.Gertrude who had brought her glasses with her, carefully examined every stretch of land not invisible behind the smoke palll.Presently he utters she uttered an exclamanation;

"There are three columns of infantry moving close together in long parallel courses and each are seemingly to my vision sixteen miles long!"she said, pointing to the nearest hise rise of grouns but forming like a plain on top."No doubt the Glandelinian cavarly is behind that hill.This surely the coming of som mighty army, and I bet it is the.one advancing on tward Evangeline St Cl ire.They might know of us too I suppose and sent troopers to find usand attac attack or capture us.Gosh this is awkward.what do you think, Jean????"

"I should say you were right in what you said to me last night, Gertrude. The glandelinians may also have an idea that we might find some sort of a rendezvous herea outs, though they don't know for certain where, and they will send troops to send or seardh all the reigion here..If they come a, a,o along here in large numbers like thatwe shall be caught in a trap and to make it worse for us they'll secure our raft..A big ship may sail by if it could without any one aboard ever suspecting where we are, however hard they might be looking, but if the Glandelinians sent davarly troops on land, and boats by water, they couldn't help find it.Still there is nothing to preventour sailing away now, as the long neck of land is between their sight and ours."

"That is so Gertrude said."But too if they come before we do get away , in the first place they'll capture all our stores on the raft, and in the secondplace they might lie quiet in hiding, and ambush us allwhen we least expect their presence.I will go down to the Raft again Jean, and will send up two of the men officers to keep watch here, and turn, turn about.So you remain hereuntill you are relieved.I will leave my glass with you.If there is any fresh danger, leave the boy onn watch and come down with

the news your self.I must talk this matter over with all my girlscout officers, and notify Penrod, and Angeline Jennings.We have no direct interest in this place, but we must do the best what we can for our cause."

Jean and George, watched the distant boats through the glass als coming down the water untill they disque disappeared round an end of the land, saw the infantry still moving onward, and then turned the glass floodward.Jean was using it at the time but saw nothing on the water any more.Then she turned again to land.

"See,"she exclaimed"There are three big waves of Glandelinian cavarly together, and beyond on that slightly open hill a column of infantry is moving northward.I can see their banners.By Heavens George its's the advance of Myletse."

"I can see them plainly enough."George said."what Glandelinian army do you make them out to be??"

Garglylian and Wheeler cavarly, a column of infantry on that long hill top, and the same three columned infantry below.They seemed to be moving north ward close together, and I fancy they are heading for Sanitary Creek.How- ever I couldn't swear to that.They must be fifteen or sixteen miles away from here.I expect they belong to Myletze."

"Could we see any trace of Vivianias army from the other side of this hill or elsewhere?" George asked rapidly.

"I should say we should if they are near, but the enemy would see us too." Jean replied, after pausing to calculate the line of sight."It also depends how far round the only columns may be coming, and how close.But if their lead ers have sent any columns up to another direction, they can make Vivianias army out as plainly as we can from the point you mentioned."Jean handed the glass to George.

"Yes I can make out immense columns Jean.What do you suppose the enemy is doing."

"Most likely are changingposit ons with the purpose to force Vivianis into a battle."

"What will Vivianis do then."

"I expect he will be forced into battle, as he won't retreat otherwise and not onlyunless he has to, but of course that depends,whether he has a new force, and worth taking the risk to battle Myletse for."

"What would the Glandelinians do if they securedour raft.?"

"I expect they will use her or let her go adrift."

"They won't burn or sink it then.?"

"No ,there would be no good innthat, for they wouldn't know what to do with those of us they might capture.Of course I do not believe they do not want to bother with prisoners here, and they probably would turn us adrift on the raft, or on boats.No I expect they might massacre the lot of us for they knew if they set us adrift and any of us survived we would carry the news to some near distant christian army.I suppose that is so in this case, for if they are going to do us anything, they would not be displaying themselves like that.Well we shall see in another hour."

It was about half past three---that Angeline Riches, who had not followed Gertrude immediately, went ashore from the raf t.;Mildred Maxwell, Winnie W Saunders, Nettie Kauffmann and others were talkingmatters over in the tent.Had there been a breath of wind, and a safe passage on the flood, and a lot of men on board they would have fallen on the nearest glandelinian encampment and taken away someprovisions for their use.But there was lit tle wind stirring and to complete the helplessness of the awful situation down on e Jean and others with the news, that an immense glandeli Glandelinian army was near by, and that Get Gertrude Angeline had gone ashore to see what it was..It never occured to any one to hardly doubt Gertrudes carefulness and so forth but they were alarmed for her safty..With the fierce glandelinians in the dreadful temper they were in , it seemed an even chance if they should see the good girl again..So the girlscout officers ran across the raft.So terrific was the h heat that the pitch was bubbling in the logs of the raft, the nasty stench of burning leaves almost turned QAngeline Riches sick if ever a man smelt Hell and its infernal regions it seemed to be in that abominable regions.The six Guards were sitting grumb ling about the "Dirty Glandelinian skunks" under a sail, ashore Angeline Richese could see one of the boats made m fast,and a soldier sitting in each hard by where a little brook ran in.One of them was whistling "Nearer my God to Thee.Waiting was a strain,and it was decided that Mildred Maxwell, and winnie should go ashore with Angeline riches in another boat in quest of information.The other boats had leaned t to their right, but the three pulled straight in, in the direction of the house on the slope of a hill which also was surrounded by an old time stockade of immense size.The two soldiers who were left guarding their boats seemed in a bustle at the appearance

"Nearer My God "stopped off and I Angeline Rhese could see the pair gesticulating to them as if warning them not to go.Had they gone and told Penrod all might have turnedout differently, but they had their orders, and decided so to sit quietly where they were and start again to N2"Nearer "Nearer my God to Thee2". There was a slight bend in the flood shore, and Angeline Richee steered so as toput it between her, even before they had landed they hadlost sight of the two boats.Angeline Richee was the first to jump out, and and went as near running as she dared with a big silk handkerchief under her cockaded hat for the sake of coolness, and a brace ofpistols ready primed for safty.And she had not gone a few hundred yards, when she and her two followers reached the stockage first. On top of a knoll beyond was a row ofjungle houses, fit to hold two hundred people on a single squad and loopholed for musketry on every side, and apertures for cannons all around.All around these long log houses there was cleared a wide space, and yet completed by a paling sixteen feet high, without door or opening too strong to even be wrecked by shell fire without time and labor, and too open and exposed to shelter any troop of besiegers.Any one defending the log houses would have the enemy at their mercy in every way---they could be quiet in shelter and shoot the enemy like ducks.All the besieged would need was a good watch, and plenty of ammunition and food, for short of a complete suprise they could hold the places against whole brigades for months.Angeline Richee in passing the stockade was thinking this over, when there came ringing over the territory far to her ri h right the cry as of thousands of fierce fiends.She was not new to the "Glandelinian Blasphemous Devil Yell"---she had heard it often even when she served emperor Vivian at the battle of Delight's Junction,and where she got a wound at Clapknoll--but nevertheless herpulse went faster for a moment.

"Glandelinians coming." was her first thought."If all the others are not careful they're goners."

It was something to be a girlscout but still more to go through adventures not as a girlscout but as a little soldier like she does.There was no time to dilly--dally in their work.She madeup her mind instantly, and with no time lost returned to the shore; and jumped on board the boat.Suddenly about two hundred feet away or more; there was a sharp noise, a terrific eruption from the water as if a volcano broke loose, and water and mud fairly showered the boat and its occupants.

"Quick row like fury."cried Angeline."The enemy see us and are letting loose Gang-Gang shells."

By good fortune, the man pulled a good oar.He made the water fly, but he had only got within one third way to the raft, when another raft of debris came between them and their point ob objective, but the raft in stead of a hinderance was a time saver; they abandoned d the boat and ran across the debris, and aboard the raft.There was a noise then as if the world was blowing to pieces and the whole mass of wreckage raft went into the air with a great roar amid smoke and water, and pieces of timbers of all sorts and sizes tumbled down upon the raft and all on board were drenched with water. Angeline found them all shaken, as was natural.One of the guards was shaken down, as white as a sheet, thinking of the harm that might befall those on shore, the good soul,and the others were little better.

"These are men."said Angeline Richee as another deafening crash filled her ears from a more distant explosion."He came near nigh to fainting girls when he saw the explosion of the first high explosive so close to us."

Minnie told herplan to Angeline Richee,and between them they settled on the details of its accomplishment.They decided to again return to shore in spite of the shelling, as they knew how to dodge them. There too was no telling what might happen to the raft, and so as some of the men began returning, Angeline put twenty between the Horse stalls and the tents with three or four prepared machine guns, and a number of matresses for protection.Colonel Reid Hunter brought the swivel gun round under the stern port to face shore, and Hendro joyce, and James grahames got to work loading boxes near the edge of the raft with easy flinging hand grenades, and bombshells.In the meantime Minnie, Mildred, and Angeline Richee, and Faith Wolfort stayed on the raft, and the latter hailed one of the men who was at work)

"Captian Handser" hahe said,"Here we have fourteen machine guns facing shore.If any of you see Glandelinians preparing to take the raft while we are away don't fail to use them."

They were a good deal taken ab ack at her words, they didn't want her to risk the perils on shore, and after a little consultation one and all tumbled to their respective places, so doubt fearing the enemy would take the raft in the rear.By this time, tumbling things in a boat as they came, they had the boat loaded with provisions guns and ammunition as much as they dared.Then they made for the shore again, as fast as the oars could take them.This second trip fairly aroused the far distant glandelinian watchers on shore.A shell fairly missed the boat and exploded behind, and those on board the small boats doing guard duty at Angelines gesture whipped ashore and disappeared.She had a half a mind to change her plan, and destroy the forest a little to routout the foe, but she feared that Myletzes whole army would be close at han d and all might beny well be lost by trying for too much. They touched the same spot of the land as before, and set out to find Gertrude Angeline.All five made the journey slowly and carefully.So they proceeded without taking time for breath; till they came within sight of the palisades where suddenly in the u open a great eruptive explosion occured. That they should have risked a second trip on thisportion of land under fire seemed more hazardous than they expected.Two of their men followers were killed outright and seven wounded by this blast; and a shell fragment took away Angelines hat while splenters flew all about, and two trees fell to the earth with a thundering crash.She hoped however that she had the advantage of numbers. .Not one of the Glandelinian gunners could continue this long if she got nearer and if they charged who why she could have given a good account of at least half a hundred before they made her retreat. She raided even under fire the stockade, and made the journey back to the boat; heavily laden,and tossed the stores into the bottom.Then they returned to the stockade for more till the whole cargo was bestowed. The girlscout Jane was waiting for them in the boat this time.She caught the oars; and they finished loads loading the boat for their very lives.Pork; powder,and bread and meats and cheese and buscuit was the cargo;with some cutlasses and sabres spiece for all.

By this time the flood was rising slightly again,and the raft was swinging round to her anchor.Voices were heard faintly halluoing in the direction of the woods, and though this reassured them, it warned them to be off for the raft in double quick time. Theclast man retreated from his place behind a tree, and dropped into the boat."

They still waited for the last to appear.

"Come Hank"Cried Angeline Richee .

There was no reply.

"Hank." resumed Angeline, a little louder,We are leaving for the raft , and I order you to come back with us and not remain on this dangerous shore one minute longer. Come my fine fellow before it is too late.Don't hang so long in stays.I'm risking my life, and the lives of these with me every second."

There was a sudden outcry, the sound of blows, and from the shore burst Hank, with a knife cut on the side of the left cheek, and came running to the boat, like a dog to the whistle, with a score of glandelinians in persuit. At that moment a grenade fell right in their midst, and all of the glandelinians fell killed or wounded. At the same time Angeline Richee had shoved off and given way!They were soon clear of the shore and heading for the raft, but not yet near it.

This return trip toward the raft was quite different from the first, and in the first place, the little"gallipot "of a boat that they were in now was gravely overloaded.Four little girls, and five overgrown men; all of themen over six feet high, was already more than she was meant to carry under any conditions. Second trouble, and too that, the powder, prov s ons and other war materials, and the sandwitch bags.Then third, anger of being rammed by floating wreckage.Fourth.Shellfire.Next the gunwhale was slipping waters, and the current of the floocod was powerfullly strong.Seve a several times they had slipped or shipped a little water, and the yellow brek breeches of the soldiers, n and the tails of their coats were all soaking wet before they had gone a hundred yards, and they had their feet ankle deep the peep in water. And the cannons of the enemy could still be heard, banging like loud distant rev reberating thunder crashes. Angeline Richee ordered the others to "Trim" the boat, and theybfinally got her to lie a little more evenly.If they were to capti p captisize they would be able of course to reach the raft just the same by swimming, but lose everything on the boat. All the same they were even afraid to breathe. Then again the "ebb of the flood was now making toward the southwest straight, a strong rippling wavy current, and going against their way of direction.Even the littlest ripples were a grave danger to their overloaded craft, de baff, but the worse of it was they were swept out of their true course and away from the raft.If they let the current have its way they would com ashore where they had seen so many Glandelinians when fired on, and where the glandelin iansmight appear at any moment and make them all prisoners. "I cannot keep her head for the raft." Miss"Said oje one of the soldiers t to Angeline Richee.He was stwering,while all the other men were at the oars. "The floocod tide keeps washing her down."

"Could you pull a little s r stronger!"ohe asked.

"Not without swamping the b boat Miss." You "said he." You ma must bear up Miss ,if you please---bear up till you see we are gaining."

She tried, and found by some experiment that the tide kept sweeping them southwestward untill they had laid her head due northeast or just about right angles to the way they ought to go; and that even they now could not even make xshore.

"Well never even get ashore at this rate, and we'll be drawn into the far off current, and then we'll be lost."Said Angeline Richee.

"If it's the only course that we can lie, Miss, we must evenlie it." said Mildred."We must keep"Upstream"with the flood current."

"You are right "said the man."You see Miss Maxwell"he went on "if once we dropped to leeward of any landing place on shore it's hard to say where we would get to shore, besides the chance of being attacked by the enemy, whereas the way we go the currentmust slacken some spot; and then we can dodge back along the shore."

"The current has become less already."said Jane,who was sitting in the fore-sheets,"You can ease her off a bit."

"Thank you Mi My dear girl"said Angeline Richee, quite as if nothing had happened, for they had all quietly made up theirminds to take any chance to get ashore, rather than risk going too far out on the flood. suddenly Angeline richee spoke up aga h again; and it sounded as if her voice was little changed changed.

T"The Glandelinian batteries"said she.

"I have thought of that."said Jane, for she made sure Angeline was think ing of a bombardment of the boat from shore."But the situation of the land I believe makes it safe, for the Glandelinians could never get the guns depressed right if we stay close at shore.But if we get out too far on the water, we'll be saying our last prayers, and there'll be a Requiem High Mass needed for us, dailys."

"Look astern, everyone."Cried Angeline Richee.

They had entirely forgotten, the other battery that had been firing on them while going ashore twice with the boat, and there to their horror, were fifteen big long range guns being trained tward their little boats.

"The Glandelinians have good gunners." said Angeline Jennings hoarsely.

At any risk, they put the boat 's head direct for the landingplace. By this time they had got far out of the run of the current that they were able to keep steerage way even at their necessarily gentle rate of rowing, and now they could not hardly keep her steady at the goal or for the goal.But the worst of it was, that with the course they held now, they turned the boat broadside instead of their s tern to the shore, and offered a target like a barn door to a horses hoofs. Angeline could hear; as well as see, the Glandelinian gunners, working the guns into proper position to get the proper range for the boat.

"Who are the best shots among us?"asked Angeline Richee.

"We all are"said themen if our rifles will reach that range."

"Well boys"said Angeline"Will you please try and pick off some of those men sir before they can fire.Their artillery officer is possible."

The soldiers were as cool as steel.They looked to the priming of their long range, twenty shot repeating cartridge rifles.

"Now"cried Angeline Richee"w Easy with those guns boys, or the concussion will swamp the boat.All other s steady to trim her, when they aim."

The soldiers raised their rifles, the rowers ceased,and the girls leaned over to the other side to keep the blanace, and all was so nicely contrived that they did not even ship a drop. They had the guns in position by this time,and one of the artillery officers(he looked like he was the King of Oz) the way he was uniformed, was) was in most consequently the most exposed.However they had no luck for as the soldiers fired, down he stooped the ball aimed for him whistled over him, but five of his artillery men dropped dead, two gave a yell and one officer in the uniform rank of a Sergeant fell.The cry the artillery men who fell gave was echoed, not only by the surviving artillery men, but by a great number of voices from the left of the shore, and looking in that direction they saw a large column of Glandelinian cavarly trooping out from among the trees; and about fifteen Scoodliers tumbling into their places in tow long gasoline skiffs.

"Here comes the Gasoline Revenues, Miss"said one of the men.

"Give way then."cried Angeline Richee."We must'nt mind if we have to swamp her now.If we get can't get ashore elsewhere, orwreck our raft all's up!Those Scoodliers are Zimmermanninns and they can do a lot of harm with their rifles, and their boats have cannons too."

"They'll have a ho hot run Miss, for we have the long start on them."he said.

"We'll try to make it any a way"said Angeline Richee."Move ashore you must."

"But they might catch us." protested the man.

"No they won't,It's not them I mind at all, we have a machine gun on board and can recieve them good.It's the explosive shells from the batterds we must avoid."Cant-gangshells,.Our own babies couldn't miss us now.Tell us Mildred when you see the"Watch" and we'll hold water."

In the meanwhile they had been making headway a headway at a good pace for a boat so badly ove rloaded, and they had shipped but little water in the process.They were now close in , thirty or fourty or more strokes and they would beach her, for the flood"ebb" had already disclosed a narrow belt of washed land belong the trees that had their bases submerged in water.The Glandelinians in the launches were no longer to be feared, the enemy in in the boats wer already concealed from their eyes."The floods "ebbtide" which had so cruelly delayed us, though it was hoped it might be a meaning of the flood slightly receding, was now making reparation and delaying the glandelinians in the boats, as the current was strong enough to retrad them in spite the power of their gasoline motors. Theone source of grave danger was the Glandelinian battery.

"I if durst."said Angeline Richee,"I'd stop and pick of another rebel soldier."

But it was plain that the Glandelinians meant nothing should delay their broadside.They had never so much as even looked at their fallen comrade, whether dead or wounded, and they could from the boat see some crawl away.

"Ready "Cried Dolores Mic-Mollester.

"Hold. " Cried Angeline richee, quick as an echoes.

And she and Mildred had the men to back with a great heave, that sent the stern of the boat bodily under water.The crash of the distant cannons fell in at the same instance of time and fairly shook the air and the trees from their concussion.The water of the flood went high in great geys geysers and the concussion of one high explosive bursting on land not far from the boat hurled fragments forward, three of the men in the boat were killed two was wounded, and even Jane recieve a fling of something in the right leg that made her gasp from the terrible pain.Ag i Again the cannons roared blindly and whereone ofthe high explosives this time passed, notone of the survivors precisely knew, but it must have been over their heads, but one hitting a mass of floating wreckage two hundred feet from the boat sent everything, water and all, andsand from the land below high into the airlike a great eruption with a stunning earsplitting crashing report, and this con trub contributed to their disaster.Another man was killed outright, and a torrent of water descended upon them, mingled with falling boards, mud and sand; and dribbles of stones, the boat sank by the stern, quite gently but suddenly, in three feet of water, leaving the girls by themselves facing each other still sitting down heads almost under water.The four girls were the only survivors.The little girls finally came up again in a standingposture drenched and bubbling, and Jane limped; and a part of her dress was red where evidently she was bleeding.

They gazed in horror at the dead men, now floating away with the flood, yet the little girls realized they could wade ashore in safty.But to make it worse there were all their stores at the bottom, and to make things still worse only two guns out of five remained in a state of service.Angeline Richee had snatched hers from herkniknees as the boat sank and held it over her head by a sort of instinct.As for Angeline Jennings, he had Sarah carried hers over her shoulder by a bandoleer,and like a wise girlscout lock upper-most.The other three had gone down with the boat, and the four other girls dropped their rifles in their excitement into the water. Jane had hers but the stock was broken off by being hit by a shell fragment.To add to their concern, they heard voices drawing near them in the woods along the shore and they were not only facing the danger of being cut off from the raft, in their badly crippled state,but the fear before them whether, if the raft was attacked by other foes, those on board would have the sense and conduct to stand firm.Those left on board the raft were steady the girls knew, but the boyscouts left on guard were a doubtful case, and were being new were pleasant polite boys for work as office boys and to wear fine clothes, but not entirely fit for service in war.With all this in their minds, they waded ashore as fast as they could, leaving behind the poor row boat, the dead men and a good half of all theirpower and ammunition.

DESPERATE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES, AND THEY RETREAT FOR THE BIG STOCKADE.
THE GLANDELINIAN FORCES.
LONG JOHNS EMBASSY.

THEY made their best speed across a narrow strip of wood fringing the main forest further beyond, that divided them from the distant stockades, and at every step they took the voices of the Glandelinian commanders rang nearer. Soon the girls could hear their foot falls as they ran, and the crackling of the branches as they breasted across a bit of thicket. A shell exploded among the trees near them but did not harm but break off the branches and let fall a shower of leaves. From some where also came the crack of rifles, and bullets sang close to the little girls.

They began to understand fully enough that they should have a b u brush for it in earnest, and Angeline Riches looked to her primings. At this moment from another quarter, a number of their own men fortunately, about fifty appeared, and joined them.

"Captian," said Angeline Riches to the man, "Mildred Maxwell is the best dead shot among us. Give her your pistols; her own are useless."

The man and little girl exchanged guns, and Mildred, silent and as cool as she had been at the beginning of the bustle, hung a moment on her heel to see that all was fit for service. At the same time observing that Jane Turner one of the girls wasunarmed, Angeline Riches handed her her cutlass. It did all their hearts good to see her spit in her hand, knit her brows, and make the blade sing through the air. It was plain from everyline of her body that she too was worth her salt. Fo ourty paces farther on, they came to the edge of the wood, just as a shell crashed among a brushwood and splintered everything, and saw a high rise of ground with a sort of circular formation in front of them. It was some sort of a natural enclosure, and they reached it about the middle of the north side, and almost at the same time, seven squadrons of Glandelinian cavarly all Schwarzmannian Scoodiers, wd under the very leadership of general Job Andersun Mic Gunnery at their head on a white horse--ap appeared in fullery at the south western corner. They paused when that they saw the seven little girls, and over a hundred men, as if taken aback, and before they recovered, every o ne of the fugitives had got behind the natural enclosure, and had time to fire. A veiloey of a hundred and seven shots came like one explosion, they did the business, as many Glandelinians toppled from their horses, the general among them, but the rest without hesitation, turned, and plunged forward through the scattered trees in a fearful headlong charge to avenge the loss of their leader. The defenders fired and fired again, and finally being discomfitted, by the fierceness of the at ack it seemed as if they were fored to abandon theirposition or be massacred, when a high explosive shell, from some where fell in their very midst and nearly fifteen of the soldiers were killed, and thirty wounded, and little Jane recieved a second wound. Too there was danger of the Glandelinian assailants closeing in, and therefore thesurvivors fled from the natural works,, taking to the trees as quick as possible for shelter but at that moment, a ball whistled close past Angeline Richees ear, and poor Jane turner stumbled and fell her length on the ground. The girls and the surviving soldiers returned the shot with a volley, and a number of Glandelinians again fell, horses too. The soldiers had to fight fiercely while two turned their attention to poor Jane to carry her beyond danger. The Captian, and a lieutenant were already examining her, and Angeline saw with half an hou eye that all was over, when the Captian pitched forward shot through the head. Carrying the little between them the refugees fled from tree to tree, bush to bush always returning the fire of the relentlessly persueing enemy, and all the while they carried poot Jane, groaning and bleeding into thelog house nearest the enclosure.

The other soldiers scattered out into long thin lines behind trees and firing fiercely held the glandelinians at bay while the little girl and Jane Melfort too, the latter who had been slightly wounded in the leg was attended to. But poor little Jane Turner, she had not uttered a word of surprise complaint, fear or even acquiescence from the very beginning of their perils

till now, when the man carriying her laid her down in thelog house to die. This little girl scout had followed many a girlscout leader, dogedly, n and well through many a dangerous and exciting adventure, she was the oldest of Gertrudes whole division of girlscouts by nearly two years, and now it was she that was go n going to die. And Gertrude and the rest of the main force so far away.

"Oh God." Said Angeline Riches, "If Gertrude will only hear the firing."

And she dropped down besides Jane on her knees, and kissed her hand, a s crying like a baby, while without the firing continued hotter and hotter.

"Am I going, Angeline?" she asked."

"Yes, dear girl." Said Angeline "You are going to Heaven."

"They shot me the murderers. I wish I had one at them with my gun first before I die." she replied. "Don't forget to have a Requiem High Mass said for me."

"Jane" said Angeline "Pray for us when you go to heaven won't you?"

"Yes I will." came the f i faint answer. However what it be Amen."

Despite the peril of the stay here Angeline Riches, knowing it would be impossible to obtain a priest, said the prayers herself for the dying, and a few minutes after, without another word, the poor little girl passed away.

In the ma meantime Mildred Maxwell, taking chances wmoutside, directing the men how to deploy in their answering fire, and she too had found a long fir tree lying felled and trimmed for somepurpose, and with the help of Dolores who was trembling over the excitement of the battle, Mildred set up her machine gun which she fortunately had carried with her, and this suddenly opened, and to the horror of the survivors the glandelinians fell by hundreds.

Even trees did not shelter them from this deadly fire, and those who tried to rush to some cover to get an aim to put Mildred out of existance were riddled with bullets. It was all on Mildreds side now, and her eyes gleamed almost wickedly as she realised it. The Glandelinians driven to panic and fright scattered and recoiled as fast as they could to getout of that hose stream of bullays bullets, but she advanced the gun forward untill nearly all those who escaped not were annihilated. This result seemed mightily to relieve her and the rest. During the lull Mildred re-entered the log house, to refill the cartridge belts, while the others were set to counting up the stores, as if nothing else existed during the lull. A flag which Mildred also had in Herpossession was spread over Jeans body.

"Don't you take on so like this." she said taking Angeline Riches by the hand. "All is well with her, she's in heaven, no fear for a girlscout that has been shot down in her duty to Country and God. Anyway it does not keep the Glandelinians from being guil / guilty ofmurder."

Then she pulled Angeline Riches aside.

"Angeline" she continued "We can make for the stockades during the lull. In how many weeks do you expect to hold out if the others do not know of our danger and come not?"

"It's not a question of weeks Mildred, but of months. You can calculate for yourself." said she.

"Why yes" returned Angeline Jennings herself, scratching her head "And making a big allowance, for all the gifts of p Providence, I'll say we are pretty closely pressed. We'll have to fight our way to those stockades we had found, and they are pretty distant too believe me."

"How do you mean?" Mildred asked, as a shell exploded again beyond hurling a shower of tree splinters all over the party."

"It's a pity we lost that boatload. That is what I mean" Replied Angeline Jennings. "As forpower and shot, and weapons, we can do wonders. But the rations are short, very short, so short, Mildred, that it's suicide to risk a seige. Better try to break through, and wait till night comes and then escape."

"But what are we going to do with her?" "And Angeline Riches pointed to the little girls dead body under the flag.

"Take her and bury her. We'll take her to the raft or die."

"Just then with a roar and a whistle, a high explosive shell passed high above the roof of the log house, and plunged far beyond them in the wood, exploded like an eruption and to e tore a ga gap in the forest.

"Good night, "The Glandelinian batteries are still bla zing away." said Angeline Riches.

At the secon d trial however the aim was better, and the loghouse went i up into smoke sand and debris, killing thirteen soldiers who were within, fortunately too that the dead body had been brought outside before this.

"Angeline" said polores. "How can the gunners see us here. I thought we were quite invisible. It must be the trees they are aiming at. Would it not be wiser to retreat further. The Glandelinians don't seem to re-appear."

"Yes." and she gave the command, but advised every one to make the retreat carefully, and from tree to to tree. As they started their retreat, a roll of cannons were heard, and a "barrage of shells exploded in a long line of eruptions but none of them were hit, though they were badly showered by

earth, and the debris of trees.The fragments of the shells buried themselves in the trunks of other trees not felled by the explosions, but as long as the retreating fugitives had no ricochet to fear they didn't worry.They could hear the scream of the shells, and always threw themselves down when they came close and thus adoived the danger of further loss.Though one crashed within fourty feet of them and buried som of them in debris they all got out.

"There's one thing good about this."observed Angeline Richee,"The wood in front of us now is likely clear from the Glandelinians.We can try to reach the stockade and I'll send ten of the men to find the rest to bring them toour help.Who whill volunteer to go.We are within ten paces of the stockades now."

Ten men volunteered to go forth.Well armed they stole under fire through the thickshe, while som otherman were sent to try and unsover the storms left where the boat had been sunk.They toowent forward but for them it proved a useless mission.The Glandelinians were found busy carrying off the stores,and wading out with them to the Revenue cutters that lay close by, pulling an oar or so to hold the boat they had raised, steady against the current. An offiter was in the stern sheets in command, and others were grouped about, and it was seen too by one of the men that the Glandelinians were moving forward from another part of the shore attacking those on the raft, and a brisk firing was heard from that quarter..

All were soon in possession of the abandoned Stockade, and Angeline Richee sat down on a log at the same time wondering where Gertrude Angeline, Penrod, and the rest of the party were.Then came a hail on the other side.

"Some one is hailing us."said Dolores, who was on guard.

"Angeline Richee, Mildred Maxwell, Hallo Angeline Jennings is that you!" came the cries."We trailed you over here."

And Dolores ran to the gate in time to see a number of boyscouts, about fourty safe and sound, come climbing over the stockade.They had heard the firing, and followed the sound, thus getting here just in time..

As soon as the new comers had come into the stockade, one of theboys sat down beside Angeline Richee.

"Now"said he"There's your other friends far outside on a hill, sure enough.Gertrude will hear the firing and come to our aid."

"Far more likely the Glandelinians will overwhelm the whole of us." she answered."

"Overwhelm us"he cried."Why in a place like this, we could hold an army at bay.Your gang is equipped with four machine guns, anplenty of ammunition for them and could sweep the whole territory around the stockade like as many streams of hoses.No we can hold out.There's been blows elsewhere too, and I reckon Gertrude and her followers, has had the best of it somewhere else, and here we are ashore in an old stockade, about a mile from the flood, as was made years and years ago by some old time farmers to keep out wolves from their sheep.Ah Gertrude is the girl to have the headpiece, he is afraid of no Glandelinian not she, afraid of nothing."

"Well"said Angeline Richee, th"That impositively so, and so be it; all the more reason that we hope she'll hear our firing and hurry and help us."

"No she is too far off; and in trouble too."returned the boy."Not so. You're a good girlscout, or I'm mistaken, and though you are a girl you are more like a boy like me,all told.Now I Ben Hans can do lots too.Nothing would bring me anywhere but here by yourside..and you won't forget my words"A precious sight is what 'll you say, when we foil those Glandelinian sj skunks and defeat them.Ha,ha, brave men. They attack children and are brave soldiers.If they see a "Christian dog"they puff out their tail and run.Ha.Ha."

"And Meow."said another boy, and he pinched her on the arm.

"Yes"said another boy"We are the dogs, and the Glandelinians are the cats.See the point."

"And when Gertrude is wanted, yo know where to find her Jim"said another. "Just where you found her to day.If she can she'll come to our help.She's good she is.Did you Angeline send to her messengers."?

"Yes. I send ten or twelve men,but I'm afraid only one of them will get through."

"Well s"said the boy Jim"I believe I understand.All of us have something to propose.How did you come to be attacked?"

Angeline Richee told the story.

"Is that the reason.And you suffered the loss of more than fifty men and one girl.You have something to avenge,and you wish to see Gertrude or Penrod come to your aid.Shall I try and reach them.I can do it. Why from observations I know where she is, and none of those men may reach her.The Glandelinians may be watching closely."

"And when can you expect to reach her!" asked Angeline.

"Why in about half an hour."

"Good"said Angeline.

"And now may I go!"

"Yes, but bee careful.Keep a look out for the enemy."

"You won't forget!" he inquired anxiously."

"No I won't forget.I reckon you can go Jim.And Jim if you see Penrod warn him too."

And then Jim dee departed. When he was gone, there was a loud report, and a high explosive shell came tearing through the trees, and exploded with the force of a volcanic eruption not a hundred yards fromwhere Angeline Richee and Ben Hans were sitting.The next moment all these who could had taken to heels in different directions.For a good hour to come frequent earsplitting explosions, and reports of distant cannon shook the whole landscape, and explosions of shells brought down many trees and kept crashing through the woods, but never hit the stockade.Inside the grounds of the stockade every one to avoid the shells moved from place to place, always permued, or so it seemed to them by these terrifying explosive missiles.But t ward the end of the bombardment,though no one durst venture in the open, where the explosions crashed more often, all had begun in a manner to pick up courage again, and Angeline Richee crept down among the trees growing near the palasades.

It was five oclock, and a breeze was rustling and tumbling in the woods, and ruffling the gray surface of the distant flood, the flood too seem seemed somewhat lowered and great tracts of land lay uncovered, and the air bing from the northwest, after such a heat of the distant forest fires, now was somewhat cooler.Angeline Richee could see that the raft still lay where she had and anchored, but sure enough to her dismay, there was the Glandelinian flag, flying from her peak.Even as she looked, there came another red flash, from her gun that sent the echoes clattering, and a shell struck right inside the palasade grounds near her, a shrapnell but did no harm but scatter dirt all over her.She lay for some time, watching the hustle that had had succeeded the frightful repulse of the attack.At some distance Glande linien soldiers were demolishing something with axes near the scene of attaci, others were moving forward in patches, and she realized it was preparations for an attack on the stockade.Away to the right, a great fire was glowing far away behind the distant forest, and between that point on the flood and near the raft one of the gasoline Revenue Cutters kept coming and going, the men shouting like children.At length she decided to return toward the nearest stockade stockade building.While lying near the palasade looking through one of the loopholes she had been pretty far down on a low sandy pit that was near the edge, and as she prepared to rise to her feet, she saw some distance further down the rise, and rising from a hill top, an enormous cloud and peculiarly white in color.It was followed by a blood red flash and a terrific boom that shook the stockade like an earthquake, and a high explosive shell wizzed by and fell to the right of the.ate stockade exploding harmlessly.

The stockade houses as she noticed were made of logs,roof walls and flood. In the palasade walls we there were apertures for machine guns, and stone of the stockades there was a porch at the door,and under this porch a little spring welled up. Little had been left beside the framwork of the small house in the center.The slopes of the hill and all the inside of the stockades had been cleared of timber to build the fortified houses, and she could see by the stu ps stumps what a fine and lofty grove had been destroyed.Most of the soil too had been washed away or buried in drift which showed the flood was even up here at its highest stage.Very close around the stockades too close for defense the woods still flourished high and dense, all of fir and an admixture of live oak and other trees.The cool evening breeze of which she had noticed whistled through every chink of the rude buildings, and apron sprinkled the floor with a continual rain of fine sand.There was sand in their eyes, sand in their teeth,sand in their suppers, sand dancing in the spring for all the world like porridge beginning to boil.And sometimes when smoke came up from the forest fires and eddied about, it kept every one coughing and rubbing their eyes.

If every one had been allowed to sit idle, they all should have had the blues, but Angeline Richee was n ever the girlscout leader for that.A number of boys and girls were called up before her, and divided into watches or sentries.The rest were put to work doing what they could to strengthen the defenses.Dolores, Angeline Jennings, and Mildred were given other duties and some of the boys tired though they were, were sent out for rocks and stones, two more were set to dig a small quary hole in front of the palasade, Jane was named cook, and Hettie Kauffmann wamput sentry at the gate, and Angeline Richee went from one to another, keeping up their spirits and lending a hand wherever it was wanted doing work herself.

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From time to time some of them were fored to go inside the cabins to rest their eyes which were almost "smoked" out of their heads, and whenever they did so they had a word for one another.

"Dolores said secretly, to Jane who was having her leg bandaged;

"Gertrude is better than any leader we have seen, but Angeline Riches is her double, and when I say that it means a good deal Jane."

Another time she came and was silent for a while. Then sheput her head in and looked at Jane to see if she was all right.

"Is that boyscout Jack Saunders still safe with us?"she asked.

"I do not know Dolores. If Gertrude left him on the raft, I'm not very sure he is safe. Whether he is Joans deserter or not, the Glandelinians would have killed him anyhow."

"If there's any doubt about the matter, he is."returned Dolores. "A boy who is a coward and deserts a girl in trouble, can't expect to receive any sympathy from me no matter what may happen to him. It doesn't lie in human nature. But the Glandelinians may have spared him if to save his life he might reveal many things about us."

"If w he does, and we recapture the ra raft---"said Jane/

"Well Jane"said Dolores,"just see that good comesout of this adventure. If he told anything, You've seen my good little pocket machine gun, haven't you. And you never saw me take it out did you. Well that's for the enemy."

Everyone soon was called to have what they could of their supper, and then when they had eaten, and each had a good stiff glass of brandy to nerve them up a bit, A the three chiefs got together in a corner to discuss the prop prospects. It appeared they were at their wits end what to do the stores being so low, that if Gertrude didn't come, they would be starved into surrender long before help came. But their best hope, it was decided, was to kill off the Glandelinians as fast as they attacked. It was believed that in the attack upon the lower enclosure from which they were driven the Glandelinians had lost fifteen hundred in killed and wounded, two of their generals were wounded, one killed, and another severely wounded if he were not dead. very time they had a crack at the Glandelinians in sight, those on guard took it, saving their own lives with the most extreme care. And besides that they all had two able allies, brandy, and the climate, and as for the Glandelinians, though they were about half a mile away, they could hear them roaring and yelling and cursing and also singing as they made their preparations, and Angeline Riches staked her heart, that if the Glandelinians were to attack the stockade before dark, the half of them who come within range would be lying on their backs before the machine gun fires from the palasades.

"So "she added,"If we are not all shot down first, They'll be all glad to retreat before we are ready to fight. It's always a good time they like to attack when its night."

"First time we ever went through this experience."said another scout. Every one was dead tired, as any one may fancy, and when those who were not on guard duty got to sleep they slept like alog of wood even though it was far from night. Angeline Riches remained up to take her turn ar guarding, and soon she heard from the rear a bustle and the sound of voices.

"Flag of truce."She heard someone say, and then immediately after, with a cry or surprise"More reinforcements. We are in luck. It's Jack Sanders. and his company. He heardour firing and came to investigate. Hurrah."

And at that, Angeline jumpedup, and rubbing her eyes, ran to a loop hole in the wall.

An hour passed. During this time the boy andgirl watchers on the hills saw that the ormormous Glandelinian columns had been moving slowly forward, along the top of some high plateau partly covered with smoking ruins, and felt sure that the sections of the Glandelinian army was being tras transferred, then they s saw many Glandelinian Regimental flags, which despite it being from the enemy many the scene pretty p pretty from their bright and dazzling colors. Elsewhere one column of Glandelinians which appeared from their State Standard to be either Mangaboos or Mungaboos remained motionless, but it was the largest column, but in a few minut minutes there was the sound of drums and this column started on the move, and headed for the northw est. There was at this moment a brisk steady wind blowy blowing, hot and sultry, and bring from the east a fog of smoke. The cholmns moved fast through the gathering haze, as it was getting darker.

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"we shall soon see now whether anyportion of the Glandelinian will make us out or Gertrudes part."Jean said to George, the German boy."Heavens I hear firing to the southwest. It's Glandelinian cannons. Come there's something wrong, I willnot wait any longer but will go and tell Gertrude what is going on. In another ho r the others will be up here to relieve you, then you can bring down the latest news."

"But am I allowed to remain alone."

"I'll give you the permission."

"Left alone. won't it be fool hardy. Suppose I wasn't trustworthy.?"

"But You are. She said."I can tell that in your very eyes, that though you are a foriegn boy, not even I, Gertrude, or any of our followers are as much an enemy of the Glandelinians as you are. We are here just because of the excitement of the war. You got som secret accounts to settle with Glandelinia, you want revenge."

Left alone George watched anxiously the progress of the distant enemy divisions, turning the glass frequently, toward the other stretchof land beyond the end of which he momentarily exputed to see other Glandelinian columns appear. He looked very carefully when he saw a certain man in a general 's uniform and gave a gasp as he saw his face.

"We are mistaken "he cried to himself. "That is Manley or I'm a nut."

He stayed up there an hour, listening to the sound of cannons and explosions elsewhere, then heard the sound of small arms and wondered whe her whether some party of the others was not attacked by the Glandeliniens. He noticed that the foremostportion of the Mangaboo Gl n Glandelinians were now within about four miles of the nearest point of his observation, steadily coming his way, and still there was no signs of the Glandelinian cavarly which he and Jean had first seen. Pre presently he heard voices behind him, and two soldiers came up. George knew he now was free to return, but he thought he had better wait untill the three Glandelinian infantry columns reached a point where they would be hidden by a stretch of the "Red Riding Hood forest, and from the sight of any one who might be watching on the hill six or seven miles away. In fifteen minutes or earlier they had reached this point, but to his surprise another and longer column of the enemy appeared, all Mic-Hollestinians, and it struck him to the fact that this was Manleys advance on Evangeline St Claire. No sign yet had been seen of the "Wheeler" Glandelinian cav arly, and George felt sure that it must be encamped in some open spot whose forest fringe prevented them seeing the girl and boy scouts ashore, for had any Glandelinians noticed them they would assuredly have set out i to intercept them before they could get away on the raft, which lay almost dead to windward of them. However he still heard the distant cannonading, and was just turning to go, when one of the soldiers gave a sudden exclamenation. He turned round again, and saw an immense seemingly endless column of Glandelinian cavarly, dr dragoons, hooded, men and cavarly of general mein with its van just appearing from behind another section of forest. It had after all been advancing too, and the forest had hid its movement. The Glandelinian cavarly was indeed a big squadron the biggest force he had ever seen carrying myriads of brilliant standards, and it was soon evident its course that the cavarly was galloping for the point round, which the other Glandelinian infantry columns had slowly disappeared. Then he was surprised to see from a new spot, a new column of infantry appear, one more, another, still, another, and then they commenced to come in droves of columns.

George was puzzled at this, for one part of the Glandelinian detatchment of cavarly, had seperated from the main body, and were moving two ways, and he thought that if any of them had made out the raft, their natural course would have been to have made for the south end of the shore, so as to cut them off as they advanced past it, whereas they would now, when they gained the extremity of the landscape find themselves five or six miles from their point of observation. The two soldiers were equallypuzzled, and there was a hot argument between them, but they finally concluded, that their appearance at that momentmust be accidental, and that the heads of Manleys cavalry could not have made out the troop of girl and boyscout, s and their raft. They had just told George to run down with this news to the cove, when a light was throwmupon the mystery, for from the other shore of the cove but on land a large column of gray coated horsemen appeared. There was the sound of firing somewhere more spirited, and the strange droning noise of a machine gun (the one wildred opened on the enemy). Every portion was compact and the column was heading toard the other circle of the landscape upon which the watchers were standing. Suddenly there was a deafening air aka shaking crash of thunder overhead, from a shell exploding, and the two soldiers burst into a torrent of oaths, expressive of surprise and alarm as they and George scattered to avoid the fragments that would fly down, and they observed

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that the course of the horsemen was just tovintercept the two columns of child scouts just coming from their respective places on land, untill the main body of the van guard of cavarly came to their assistance.

"Run, boy, run for your life."on of the soldiers exclaimed,"Ans tell Miss Aronburg."But no ,wait a moment."qn and he directed the glass upon the cavarly."A th Thousand curses on them!" he exclaimed. "It's the Omarian cavyarly.They are the fiercest fighting Glandelinian cavarly.Tell Miss Aronburg that I am coming after you, but your legs will beat mine, as you are the younger."

George dashed off at full speed, but as a soon as he had distanced the other soldier, he began to run more slowly.For the moment he had so entered into the feelings of his companions that he had identified himself with them but now he had time to think, and he had suspicions that something also was wrong somewhere else, because he had remembered hearing bad firing for the last half hour, and it still continued with cannon shots and explosions at intervals.Therefore also his sympathies swung round in that direction.But soon he found he too was under fire. He had the Boom,Boom of two guns from some where, a shell caused an eruption on top of the hill, bringing down a row of trees in one crash, and another exploded two hundred yards in front of him, hurling him into a summersault from the concussion but doing no other wise harm, butkilling two men who were following behind.He rose to his feet somwhat dazed.He did not particularly want Gertrude Angeline or her raft to be captured, for he had been treated so well on board that he felt no ill willtward her.But nevertheless he felt also for the otherportion of her force which he believed from the sound of firing was in greater peril.

He thought over the matter as he continued to run, and wondered why the first squadron of Glandelinian cavarly did not take the line to cut the girlscouts on the left wing below off instead of going round by the other end of the landscape.He could only suppose, that it was because the "Omarian Wheeler cavarly were the fastest Glandelinian horsemen,, nand wasmore likely to arive in time at the point.Besides if the Wheelers showed there before christian reinforcements reached the point, theymight double back again, and the Glandelinian cav a cavee cavarly would ne make to the north end of the land before they were half way back, and by a turning movement come upon those on the raft from the south east and west and hem them in by water by boats.It might be too that the Glandelinian leader suspected the truth, knowing that the raft boat of scouts whom they had persued all the way had a landingplace somwhere in that neighborhood, and that their object in remaining hidden so long behind the forest or in the forest, was to give them time to enter theirport in ignorance of the Glandelinians being so close in the neighborhood.At any rate the great thing was , that he also saw a schooner and a brig enter somwhere near by loaded with glandelinians also, and therefore the glandelinians would come before any one knew of the danger.Once hemmd in it would be impossible for them to get out again, by means of the raft, and beat off shore with the wind blowing dead on the land, before both the strange schooner and the brig rounded the narrow neck of land.

Therefore, although George ran fast enough to keep well ahead of the men he just then made no effort to keep up a greater rate of speed than was necessary for this, for he dreaded the consequences of toomuch haste.As soon as he reached the shore, a boat rowed off from the raft to fetch him.He saw with satisfaction, that although a great number of boys and girls were all on board, all preparations were made for getting under way at once, and indeed Gertrude would have had no anxiety for her own raft, as she would know that the Glandelinians could not follow out on water, and she knew that others if persued if they saw the Glandelinians coming to meet them, would race away to the left, but she worried about where Angeline Richee, Mildred, and the rest of the other one third of the force was.

"What news boy?" Gertrude asked as the boat came close alongside."Are the glandelinians trying to close in?"

"Yew Yes Miss Aronburg.Even a Frigate, and a Schooner followed by a brig is trying to close in by water. "

"Which way are they bearing."

"One third of our force to the right do not know of their danger, Miss Aronburg.The Schooner did not show around the narrow neck of land untill the cavarly appeared coming tward us from two sides.The boats are making tward the western end, and the Schooner is making for the southern end.The soldiers who came up told me to tell you that the Glandelinian cavarly are the Omarian Kurds one of the fastest Wheeler cavarly of the enemy know..."""

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Gertrude, and her nearest officers uttered anexclamanation of sheer dismay, which was echoed by all the rest standing around them

"Rowout through the entrance,"he shouted toone of those in the boat,"Go along shore if you can, and signal a warnin g to the others sho so they'll know they are in dan danger.Tell them to make straightout to the raft.John send someone to find Angeline Riches and the rest.If the enemy come in here we shall all be caught in a trap together. Jack Flanders follow the sound of that firing and notify us what's wrong."

.The oars dipped into the water, but before the boat was fairly in motion there was an exclamanation, for the head column of one other troop of the girls and boys came past the projecting cliff.A moment later the whole s swarm came into vie view.Catherine Estrabrook was at the head.

"Bring the boat alongside."Gertrude shouted."I will go on board her at once.They may get away in time yet."

As the new comers came up that h they halted their horses to wait for the boats.Gertrude at the risk of captizing the boat stood up in the stern sheet, screaming, and waving her arms and gesticulating to them to turn about and head for the hills again.The nearest girls and boys looked surprised unable to guess her meaning.

"There are two squadrons of Gayglo Gargeylian cavarly, one coming round each form of this cove." she screamed as she approached the column."Get out to the hills if you can otherwise they may catch us all in here.We'll have to abandon the raft and set her adrift untill it lands ashoreout of their reach."

Catherine Estrabrook saw the emergency and screamedout orders. Boats too were all lowered at once, and those that could tumbled on board.Hawsers were low red from the edges and they at once began to tow the raft head round, for there was not a breath of wind in the land locked cove.

"Howmuch time have we got!" Catherine asked, as the rafts head came slowly round.

"I don't know Gertrude replied. "I can hear the galloppingof horses. It's qa question of minutes now.Ah here's the brig coming, and then suddenly Glorinia's troop of girls appeared, and the boat dashed forward and gave simil iar orders to those that had been given to Estrabrook.

"Get your columns going for the heights."Gertrude shouted,"I will row out through the entrance, and give you warning if these accursed Glandelinians are in sight.."

They rowed a hundred yards or more ouid, when beyond the farthestmost point they could see to the east, the columns of the enemy were perdieved coming at a headlong gallop.

"Take the boat round."Gertrude said sharply." It's too late to reach the raft now, we have got to fight for it."

They rowed back through the entrance.The raft slowly towed by her boats was approaching.

"It's no use, Gertrude said"You are too late.Th"The Glandelinians are coming round the bend in the land and will be here if half an hour.You can never work out h of here in time, and no one can locate Angeline Riches and the rest.George said there's firing in that direction, and so did Jean.Besides the enemy would see us come out, and their batteries would blow us and the raft out of the water, and even if we did get away, which we couldn't do, the enemy would come so fast we'd be abandoning our friends on shore.That I won't do.We have got to fight for it, that's evident, and we were hoping the Glandelinians could not hardly make their way in here.We had best have the raft moored with her broadsides to the entrance to the cove.We will blow the Glandelonian troops to fragments if they try to come in, and then we can load up with all the most valuable goods, and slip out at night time. That is our only chance.But we must locate Angeline Riches."

Cat captian Catherine Estrabrook jumped into the boat, and they again rowedout into the entrance.She saw at once that Gertrudes advice was the only one to be followed.It would be impossible to beat off the shore as the enemy batteries were easily seen, and while they were talking the enemy Schooner and brig appeared around the end of a narrow neck of land.They therefore returned into the cove.The rafts anchor was raised and moored head and stern across the harbor a hundred yards from the entrance.As soon as this was done parties were sent ashore from the raft, and six heavy machine guns were dragged from the raft, and as soon as possibleplanted on the heights so as to sweet sweep all approaches to the small bay.It was two oclock in the afternoon when this was finished, and an earth work thrown up to shelter the men working the guns from the enemys rifle fire.In the meantime the two Glandelinian ships of war had metout side

and again seperating cruised several times evidently searching for the entrance where they knew their enemies were hiding. On the landside the Glandelinians were in sight, and they charged up tward the rise of ground.

"Now"said Gertrude Exultingly"as she regained the top of the rise and watched them come."We are ready to give the cats a warm reception.The boats of all the Glandelinian hosts on the flood waters would never forced their way through the gap into the cove, and we can defend this hill from the men on this side easily. When they come near enough men openfire with cannon and rifles."

George who had been called upon to assist in the work or preparation, saw from the exultantion in the faces of the Angelinian soldiers with the girl and boy scouts that they considered theirposition was impregnable, and he shuddered at the thought of the terrible damage that would soon ensue. The Glandelinians came mounting up slowly and cautiously, and withen a score of boats loaded with soldiers in gray appeared through the opening.

The guns opened at once, with shel, and all the boats were sunk, and a swarm of men were seen struggling in the water.Those still remaining on the raft also opened fire, and the surviving boats quickly beat it out of sight.

"See"said Gertrude."They'll realize that if they try to enter again they will be destroyed at once.We have enough guns to blow a whole fleet out of water, and will do so if driven to it."

"I should sure thank you for your warning "said Catherine Estrabrook."

The Glandelinians made an assault up the hill side in so e some consider able numbers, but because of the steepness of the hill, and the fire they met from above the Glandelinians could not make any headway.They surely showed however their re a remarkable bravery nevertheless, wicked as the cause is they were fighting for, and despite their losses surged recklessly on, though their numbers were picked off as fast as they came on.But it was indeed a useless sacrifice.The trees protected their number somewhat, but nevertheless their great losses soon discouraged their officers, and though the e men in their rage, and fury, and enthusiasm wanted worse than anything to go on ahead with the attack, the officers would not permit it further, and forced them to obey the commands of retreat, even beating the more reckless ones back with the flat of their swords.

Gertrude fromabove heard the stern orders given,and saw the Glandelinians slowly go back down the slope, taking m only what they could of their wounded, but leaving nearly two hundred dead behind them, and six offibers.

From an unexpected place Jack Anderson appeared.

"Well have you found the place where Angeline Richee and her own force may be, Lieutenant Anderson." Gertrude asked during the enemys retreat, when the boy stood before her saluting.

"Yes Miss Aronburg, we have found it , but could not get too near as there are swarms of Grolywog Glandel mians near. The girlscout and her troop are preparing for defense in a long series of stockades, and thoseplaces are under shell fire."

"I could see no signs of the Stockades"said Gertrude, anxiously examining that parf of the land with her tele s cope.

"No Miss Aronburg you wouldn't untill you were within a hundred yards of it.I was with her when the t' trouble began and she repulsed one attack with great loss to both sides already. what makes herpusition seem secure the rocks overleq overlap one another, and by the right of the stockades there's a narrow passage way some fifty yards long .Apparently this makes a sharp turn at the other end and opens out.We s"w nothing of the Glandelinians who attacked us in th e enclosure below the stockade, but on high ground far to the right of the stockade there is a battery of sixteen Glandelinian guns planted so as to rake anything coming in, and it is continually firing on the stockade, but without much effect, so far as I've observed.There are some chains across the end which she did not observe.While I was passing through the danger zone I heard some o ne hailing me.

"If you christian dogs do not surrender"I heard some one say"You will be destroyed with the stockade at once.We have enough guns to blow you all to Kingdom Come, and will use them if you do not surrender."

I "What then.?"

" I heard someone answer from the stockade;

"Go to hell."

"Nasty place she had to get into though---eh?""Gertrude said thoughtfully.

"Very nasty, and dangerous for her Gertrude."

"Extre ely dangerous!"

"Well rather.I'll tell you why.You see, the guns if the enemy could bring them into rightposition will soon play right down into the stockade, then

there are the chains to break down, and perhaps more batteries, perhaps achine to swamp the enclosures of the stockades from end to end, and certainly other dangerous to tackle.She sent me to ask you for aid ."

"If I can I'll try"said Gertrude doubtfully.But"But we are fighting our selves here in uneven odds.Never got into such a situation before.Is there an chances for troops to pass through without the besieging enemy seeing them come."

"Just a bare chance , I should say and no more, Gertrude.We should certainly have to go from tree to tree, and rock to rock to fightour way through as it is but if we could send our cavarly escap escort maybe they could clear the way for the assistance to reach there."

"What depth of forest is there close in shore in that location."

"Plenty of thickness, Gertrude, enough to hide the movement of troops if the enemy ain't in possession already but of course I can say nothing as to what dangers may be lurking beyond."

"No of course not Gertrude said."Well its something, those Glandelinians seem to have run us to earth at last, but I'm going to show them it'll be a miracle for them to get us, or the raft.If I see a means to get them through, I'll send a strong force to Angeline Richee."

Gertrude now signalled to Hettie Kauffmann to come to her, and when she did so the two girlscoutofficers, ratired to a clumb of bushes together and had a short consultation. Then Hettie Kauffmann on making her appearance cautiously descended the hill without being seen either by their comrades or by the enemy below, got into a boat, and taking Estrabrook with them, rowed for the shore indicated by Anderson, a few hundred yards to the southwest.Here by means of their glasses they were able to get a view of the Stockade and its surroundings, but not a soul could be seen.It appeared deserted.The muzzles of the sixteen big Glandelinian howitzers pointed menancingly down tward the water.One of the guns suddenly roared, and a eruption sprang out of the water near the boat.

"I think we'll go back now, or they'll sink us"said Gert ude."I really think we ought to be very much obliged to Our Blessed Lord that the enemy had not succeeded in capturing all of us.I wonder what their motive was, in not attacking us more vigoriously."

"I suppose the foe feels pretty confident, that the strength of our position is not likely to encourage too open an attadk attack, and they think that if they were do so do so it would only make us the more determined to destroy them before they can destroy us.At least that is the conclusion I came to after that shell nearly hit our boat.".

"Yes I should think that it is." said Hettie Kauffmann."It is certainly as aw kward a lookingplace for Glandelinians to attadk as I ever saw and I feel confident she'll be able to hold out till I find means to send her aid.Of course if it were not for the lay of the stockade, the Glandelinian assailants could easily get in, and I daresay it would be a very risky thing to storm the stockades without knowing anything of the country around it.So I believe she'll be able to take care of her self."

The three in half an hour had returned to the hill top.

Penrod knowing where they had gone, as he saw them leave came to meet them.

"Andersons report has been fully borne out, Captian Penrod."she is safe untill we can aid her. "It would be a most desperate enterprise for the Glandelinians to attack the stockades, for they'd be dreadfully exposed, and half their number would be laid low before they got to the palasades, and even if they got over them,which I doubt there is no n saying what difficulties an obstacles may be inside.I have direction Jack Sanders to go himself and bring a streng force of boys to her aid right away.Then she can hold untill we get rid ofour enemies.Then I'll come with my whole force."

"And how about that Glandelinian batteriy, Captian Estrabrook."

"Well sir that if for you to decide.You can even see it from here. That is the only peril for Angeline Richee.Jack said he is quite ready to take his troops there, but if the battery got the proper range, and with the plunging fire of that battert battery raking the stockades in every direction with grape, and shell I say fairly that it would be for her and him a desperate enterprise, and if the rocks and trees do not shelter the stockade nothing could save it, and those defending it.As to reinforcements it seems to me they would risk an equal peril with the stockade defenders, with the additional danger that there may not be ammunition enough for those to hold out more than sixteen hours."

"Well it certainly doesn't seem to be an easy nut to crack."Gertrude said. "As we agreed before you started,we should not be justified in risking allour force, and its better to hold tocurposition which is certainly extremely formidable.Still the question remains, what is to be done?We must rescue her.

And the Glandelinians may sooner or later bring a string of cannons to blow us out of here, for they know it is no use of them staying there and trying to starve us out for we have provisions enough here to last us for years for anything we know, and more ammunition than we can think of to do with.And if a forest fire were to come up the enemy and us too would have to make off at once, it would never do to be caught even in a fire hurricane with such a forested region as this in our view.I might send you to general Vivianis asking him to send us a division or two of troops, but I don't like doing that, when its a mere question of finding some means later on of getting b ck back to our raft, and getting under way before t the enemy know it."

"I think general Vivianis would be glad to send them."Hwttis said"For these Glandelinianshave done a lot of damage.I believe that upwards of twenty towns have been destroyed by them."

"But if the division came what could it do."Penrod asked."You see we con sider it not worth the risk of throwing away two of our Regiments to force a passage to the defense of Angeline Richee, still less would it be to risk a whole division of them."

"That is so no doubt." Angeline agreed."I should suggest however, that we leave all in the hands of God.We cannot make too desperate a move for the Glandelinians will probably draw off and keep a watch at a distance.Of coul course they might find it necessary to approach at night, and to lie in positions below us, and not do anything rash knowing we can see them easily any distance round from the top of this hill."

"Yes and as soon as it is dusk we might have two or three hours to get away before they can close in on us.Besides with out night glasses from the top of this hill girls we could surely be able to makeout any move on the part of the enemy.There of course there is only one other way that I can see of getting a rescue force through to Angeline Richee, and that is to find a new landing place and attack the enemy from the shore."

"Ah that is surely a much more hopeful business.As far as I saw yes terday during our trip, the flood seems to hav" have been lowering about a foot or so, but it is hard indeed if we cannot find some place, where we can "amenage to effect ax a landing and go to her aid.This is the pplan wemust follow out Penrod.This afternoon two hours before it gets dark, you get on a Glandelinian boyscout uniform, take a boat and make away as if you were bound for some destination.I shall keep my station here.If the they see you fly a Glandelinian flag, and they willthink you have gone off to get some more troops to their help.As soon as it is absolutely dark, bear round and come back to the landscape near where the stockades can be seen, and get into a little bay of the flood if you can find ou one.You will then be out of sight of the Glandelinians unless any of them happen to look down from a tree top above you.Then scout on the whole shoreline with your boat keeping at oars length from the edge of the waters.There must be some places where there are no Glandelinians.Then if you see anything, then to morrow morning row out and join me again.I will be waiting for you about two miles off the hill, and will show a green light so that you will know where to find e me.Then we can talk matters over, and we can try it by late morning."

The conclusion that Gertrude arived to was that they believed for this afternoon the glandelinians would attempt no further attack, as at this hour an assault would be sheer madness.

"We have only to wait and tire them out."Said Maud Angelinia rubbing her hands."The first gale of the south bringing danger of fire they must run for shelter, and before they could come back we all could be gone.Of course we could load up our raft we ll beforehand with all that is really worth taking away, and can let them have the pleasure of destroying the rest after we girls and boys are gone."

"I believe the Glandelinians will know that as well as we do. "Gertrude said."They will never be fools enough to try and starve us out, but you are quite mistaken if you think we are not in any danger."

"Why what other danger can there be?" the other girlscout officers asked."We have agreed they cannot attack us by this frontal position."

"No that is true, and they cannot attack us by the cove either, but they could mass a phain of artillery to fire on ourposition, and they can also attack us from somewhere else, now they know we are here.They can and will sooner or later find some place where they can move around by night, and take us in the rear in the mo morning." ".

An exclamanation of dismay broke from the other girl and boyscout officers and from the others too.

"Great Scott.I never thought of that"said Gertrude."Of course they surely can.I have never examined the landscape from the other side, but there must beplaces where they could move to flank us,."

"No doubt girls there are, and you may be quite sure that is the method these fierce Glandelinians will try to adop adopt.And believe me those Glandelinians are as "slow"as streaks of lightning,and even they are not fools, and I'll bet any one ten to one that that is the next mone movement they will be up to.If you like I will take a score of my men,and fifty of the boys all armed to the teeth and cross aportion of the land right away, and I'll send you Jane Angelinio to examine the whole line of shore.To avoid danger we'll all done Glandelinian uniforms ofom sizes, and carry Glandelinian flags, its the only safty, and they'll examine the whole line of shore as far as we can.If there are only one or two points by which the enemy can take us in the flank we may be able to successfully defend them, even to inflict the loss only on their side, but if there are even twoplaces far apart our forg force cannot be so much seperated to hold them, for those Glandelinians if they wanted could muster half the army upon us from three directions, perhaps even the whole."

"That is the best thing to be done Penrod.Of course you must send us word by wireless telegrapg directly you see how the land lies.If we find they can even land in a good manyplaces by water too, there will be nothin f nothing for us o to do but to try and make a bolt of it, at whatever cost.Keeping close in within the fo rests at nightwe might manage to give them the slip, or in any case desperately fight our way out.Better that than to run the risk of being all caught like rats in a trap here, and we'll never surrender, for the Glandelinians do not give children "quarter"anyhow.We'd all be massacred, so it's best therefore to fightour way through."

As soon as possible Penrod started for the rear portions of the landcape ,while Estrabrook Watson started for the shor eward side with fourtypicked boyscouts, all armed with little machine guns, also carrying with them their arms, and axnes, and a whole nights rations.The rest of the troop of men and child scouts were employed during the evening in strengthening theirpositions, , digging deep trenches to shelter themselves from shell fire.Also an arran ge ment had been made between the girl and boyscout chief leaders that the raft if not captured, or forced to be ditched or scuttled should transfer the weaker scouts to the first boat worty worth sending to the raftwith safty.

Even Hettis Kaugmann was well content with this arrangement, for their Regiments cont i contained about fifty girl and boy scouts, who were too young of age to have nerve enough to do any fighting. All speculation as to thepurpose of the enemy waaput to an end about two hours or more later by a message from Estrabroo , and Penrod saying that the enemy officers were out scouting and already examining all portionsof the land for the chanpes of making a flank attack.By nine oclock that night, Penrod himself arived, and Estrabrook a little later.

"It is as we feared."both said, when he joined the other leaders"There are many ways where the enemy could easily flank us, and even overlap our position, by an assault, and infilade it with artillery.The land slopes gradually to the rear and someportions even down to the edge of the flood waters.They might land at anypoint also to flank us, and the guns of the Glandelinian batteries would cover theirlan ding if they came and if we opposed it."

"Wt Still by some lucky chance we might beat the enemy back." one of the other girlscout officers said."We can muster about fifty hundred men between us, and the glandelinians are notlikely to land more than that to attack us on flank."

"I don't think that could or would be a good plan."Gertrude said."To begin with we might be able to even repulse the flank attac, and frontal too at the same time, as we have so many good reliable machine guns in our posi possession, but we can't tell which of the Glandelinian batterds would infilade us with destructive effect.And then there's the danger of the "Red Plague."We could face peril from it more than the enemy as we could be lying directly in its path.We certainly cannot hurry through anyportion of the woods anythinglike so fast they can come on, and the enemy would barrage the forest with shells and grape, so that wouldplace us at a dimsterous disadvantage, and we might come out of the o ordeal with a mere handful of survivors.In the secondplace you know very well, we can't reply upon our men defeating anequal number of these Glandelinians, who are men by men as strong as three, and in the lastplace we should not gain much if we did, by moving them down.We would lose a tremenous tremendous lot ofour men, and some Glandelinianofficer would go off and fetch three or more divisions of men to attack us, so that in the end they must beat us.I think there is no question that it will be better for us, to send some force to rescue Angeline Richeeunder cover of night, then for the whole of us combined to takeour chances of fightingour way through, and escaping."

"Either the Glandelinians will guard all approaches and bring the

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fce cavarly round to the other side of the stockade or they will send a courier to Manlay with the news that they have us cornered, and then the enemy will send double their number.But it may be an even chence.I do not think the Glandelinians will attack any more to night, but it may be made sooner or later, and we cannot withstand them.It certainly won't and though I hate to do it I'll make a fire upon the front to stop the attack if that is the only way.If we succeed in rescuing Angeline Richee quick enough we could leave by the raft while it is still dark, and by the tim she has got round the neck of land and beyond reach of the frigate we will beout of sight by morning. .We could have a better show, we know the woods, even by dark, and the enemy would not in any case manoeuvre before morning for the Glandelinians would run the risk of losing their way in the woods, and they fear the fire too.So my proposal is to send a strong force under cover of darkness to Angelines aid, fight and desperse her besiegers bring her and her escorts safily back, and then about two oclock in the morning or earlier if possible we make a start, and getthe raft under way.We can hoodwink the enemy som way, and we can get out of range of the Glandelinian batteries so they won't be able to get us with half their guns so that at the outside all of us might safily get off.We can over a Rosary and a Ten Our Fathers, and Five Hail Marys for our success."

"But suppose the Glandelinians besieging her would be too strong to break through, we would not succeed even then, and should the Glandelinians make up their mind to launch a night attack by flank, we should have also the batteries covering the attack, and having send such a large force of our troops away to her aid what would happen then.And those Glandelinians sail forward on their horses like witches on "broomsticks."

"I have thought of that "Gertrude Angeline said."My idea is to put a man u on top of the cliff just above where the raft is anchored.If the Glandelinians are going to make a night attack, he is to light a small signal fire a short distance back from the edge of the cliff.There also should be another man on the top of the hill.When he sees the fire, he should show a red flash light four times.We will return the signal to let him know that we see it.If the Glandelinians lay quiet and do not move to attack the look out is not to t light the fire untill he sees the foe concentrating for a flank movement.If there is no danger the other is to make a signal with his flashlight three times, but the light shall be white.The moment we see the white light we embark upon the raft, with our full force and set sail."

"But how about the two signallers?" one of the "Captians said."They would be left behind, and might not get the chance of rejoining us again."

" I have thought of that too"Gertrude said ;"I can make it work so they'll get back to us safer than you think."Also I have a German lad with us whom Ipicked up out of the water, during the crash of our raft against that floating boat.He is a smart lad and as been working asone of us, though he is not a scout.I would give him instructions, and he could easily get back. I do not intend to leave anyone behind.The cliff is only thirty foot above the water, we would have the raft, where the three others are, and as soon as we signall w they could dive to the water, and we can pick them up easily. That will give them the chance to rejoin us."

"That would do capitally Gertrude.You got a good thinking cap believe me" exclaimed Penrod."But how about our wounded.You see if we abandoned them they would be massacred, if they didn't be found by the enemy they would probably starve, or perish in fire if the forest fire comes up this way.It would need a very high bribe to enduce any body to run such a risk as that."

This was so evident that there was silence for fully threeee minutes then Gertrude Angeline spoke again.

"I have a girlscout officer who would be more likely to do it than any one else I think, because she has taken such a strong ra fancy to this young German boyscout.She is a good girlscout, I do not fear any danger losing her,and the thing is so important that I do not hesitate at that.She'll be with us, after our test, with her, and bring the boy and the two men with her too.Still we must offer her something good to run the risk or rather the certainity of being captured.I prp propose that his name and her name shall be put down on higher commission p p papers, so that if we ever get either to Emperor Vivians army or my uncles, rather I prefer trying to go to the latter she will have a fair certainity of a good lot of prize boys and girls to command, for she is a good signal scout, and it'll be hellish luck ifeveryone of us do not manage to get back saftly.I know she'll succeed, or I wouldn't ask her to take the chance."

All the other officers agreed to this....

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"She will be here in half an hour." Penrod said."The men were all sitting down to their evening meal when I came away, and I asked them to do what they could to strengthen theposition.They'll do anything for us as they adores us boys and girls as if we were their own sons and daughters.IT'll be hard luck for the Glandelinians if they would attack us, as the men will fight as if the enemy were trying to do away with their own children.The sentries were also eating their meal.Of course if Jean refuses, which she can do the only way I can see will be for all the men to casts lots, when of course whoever remains to do the signalling would get his commission, and his threees shares as we agreed."

Half an hour l ater the twenty persons scouting alone shore came back. Also came Jean from a little scouting tour of her own.As soon as she appeared Gertrude called her before her and told her that it would be necessary to l have two men, and her and the German boy on a cliff, explaining the dutu dut ies they would have to perform, and that they shu should j use their own judgement in their escape to the raft.

"Now Jean"she said when she had finished,"I thought that perhaps you would be more likely than any other girlscout signal corps with us to volunteer for this work."

"I volunteer"Jean said in astonishment."What should make you think of such a thing Gertrude!"

"For this reason Jean,I have settled to send a big force to aid, Angeline Richee, and have decided to leave two men, and the little german boy on the cliff as one of the signallers.Of course he will gladly undertake the job to prove his mettle and courage as if he really does it, it will enable him to get the pull to join us as one of the scouts, which we'll undertake to see to when we reach either Emperor Vivian, or my uncle, and as you like him, and he fairly adores you, he might be able to make things easy for you.In the second place we have determined that the name of whoever stops to do this, shall be born on the Regimental books of all the christ ian armies, so that there would be a good deal of pull coming in, and which will bring you a commission as high as I can get it for you from the Vivian Girl Princesses.Of course when you are through, the raft will be waiting close below the cliff, the water there is deep, and the four of you if there is no other way much plunge down and swim to the raft.Of course you have to face a spell of great danger, but if you won't do it I'll have to myself, and you won't like that."

"That is so."Jean agreed."If you give me a few minutes to think it over I will give you my answer.It 's come upon me sudden like.I will talk it over with the boy.I suppose I can tell him Gertrude!"

"Yes."

On getting near theposition, Jean looked for the little German Boy, and finally found him standing by a tree.

"Com and sit beside me, George"she said sweetly."I want to have a private talk with you."

"Somewhat surprised George followed his girl friend out to a solitary spot.

"Now George"she said;I have got a bit of news to tell you, which is pleasant if you take it that way, and exciting in another way.That's the first thing, and the next is I want your advice.You are a sensible young boy, although you are a little foreigner, and I should like to know what you think about it."

"Well what's the good news, Jean?!!!!"""""""""

"The good news is this, you are likely sooner or later if you do what Gertrude planned to be a girlscout as soon as she can secure you the papers."

George gave such a start of delight, that he nearly fell off the log he was sitting on.

"How is that jean."It seems too good to be true."

"That's the way of it"Jean said."First Gertrude is going to make a most desperate attempt to rescue Angeline Richee, and her escort, and that is all ready being on the way.When they have her back the whole force is going to out and fight their way out of this region, and get away on the raft to night.The Glandelinian column is preparing to make a move on our flank sometime but just now is stationed toour right, and we want to be sure the Glandelinians are stopping there, then there will be only Angeline Richees enemies to deal with, and in these light winds and dark smoky night we ought to be able to crush her besiegers, enable her to get a slip and join us, but the only way to be sure the other Glandelinian horde keeps the other side is towatch it.So four persons are going to be placed on the cliff above her and at eleven oclock to night if the enemy is still on our right

one of the men are to light a fire well back from the cliff so that the light will not be seen by the enemy.Another man is to be on top of the hill where I and you were together firsting seeming the enemys advance,with a lantren.You see we can just see the top of the hill from here.When he sees the fire, he is to show a red light four timew times.If he sees it answered here he will know it is all right and his work if done if not of course he shows the lights a-ain untill its answered.If the enemy makes any suspicious move, the man will not make a fire at the poposed time, and then the man on the hill will flash three times a red light.Now as four signallers are needed they are going to leave you as one of the signallers, and then when it is finished you may jump into the water from the cliff and join your friends.To do the signalling is ticklish work, we may draw a terrible fire from the enemys batteries, but if we don't do it Gertrude will.And I don't want her to do it."

"That is capital."George said."Nothing could be better.I'll dare an thing. Now what is the other matter,that you want my advice about, Jean!"

"Well you see, it will be awkward for the men who don do not know how to do the signals, and o some one is needed to instruct them. It's extremely dangerous too for all of them that is the four will either have the choice of being captured by the enemy and carried off as prisoners, being fird on by the batteries, or if escaping but being persued, may get lost in this dange o dangerous region, and there is the fire.So we'll have to be extremely careful as Gertrude warns.Of course the best course should be taken as suggested.Jumping into the water from the cliff and swimming to the raft, and get picked up. Well they have offered each of the four as does this to put their names down on the Regimental Books of all the armies.That means of course the four of them will recieve a commission as high as the Governmental aurthorities are permitted to give to a boy or girlscout, and to these men as well as prize money besides.That's a pretty good offer you know.You see anyone of us, men or girl and boy scouts may get captured, wounded killed or wrecked in battle, as in that case there would not be a penny of prize prize money though there may be a pension or a commission.The four who stops here do t do the work is sure of a great commission and prizemone money if we do it, as Gertrude feels sure we can make success for her, and which will enable her to give Our Blessed Lords wiemiss the slip.We may have a bloody fray but she intends to get even for the losses already suffered when on the raft. Now they ask me if I will undertake it with the three others, to be their instructor.I am an expert and shall be natter off than the others because in the firstplace I shall have you to encle encourage me, and I to encou encourage you, and in the next place and in the next place I can talk your German language you know which no one else can do, and a little English too.Now what is your advice, lad."?

"I should say certainly accept the offer, Jean.You see, because we blunder so much, or some of us are cowards, that your Abbieanniens usally despise us oridgners, but you and all the rest on the raft have been good friends to me in spite of my Nationality, and it will be I'm sure we can do our work and make our escape, but even if we don't I have brought a trusty little machine gun with me and plenty of cartridges, and you may be sure if any Glandelinians come and try to attack us.I will do all I can to show them a German boy also is a bad one for them.You see when we get back to the raft and get the commission every one will look upon you and me as a great pair of heroes.So I really think you would be wise to take the officer offer. Another thing if you like, we need not showourselves at all when we do the signalling, and when we are finished we can go down the way we came."

"No George we couldn't do that.It would be too risky.We can easily jump into water from thirty feet without mishap."

"Yes, but suppose we cannot see the raft,"

"Oh yes.Gertrude would show a little light.We must all come together. If we try anything else, we might get lost in the flaming forest, seeing that neither of us know the Geography of these regions, we might get short of water, or caught in a fire hurricane or killed by the enemy in ambush.No we must allfour plunge into the water from the cliff.It's the worst the other way rank suicide.We are like in hell, here, and it seems as if by mistake, and that there are little chances of getting out.so that's the best thing for us to do."

Having decided to stay as one of the signallers, Jean proceeded at once to where Gertrude was still standing.

"I'll do it."she said."It's an ordeal but I'll see it through or die."

"I am so glad you have decided so, Jean.It would have been a troublesome business to have cast lots, and many of the men and others might have absolutely refe

refused to do so, which would have made it possible that I w u would have to do it myself, so I am glad it is settled.I have arranged with the other officers that you shall have an advance of ammunition, and a machine gun for your protection.You had best hide them about you, you'll find they'll come in very useful.The boy is to be equally armed.Of course he is glad of the chance to show his mettle, but at the same time he is doing us good service and he has worked well since he came with us.It will prove whether he can get ourpull for his enlistment or not."

"Thank you Gertrude, those w a weapons may save me from being murdered or taken to a Glandelinian Island prisoj prison.I will manage a hiding place for ourselves as I know the Glandelinians are not to be trifled with.And now I think Gertrude, we will be off at once.It's a long way to the region where the Glandelinian troops are lying on our right, and I shall have to chose a place for our signal fire so that it can be seen from the top of the hill."

Jean therefore told her comrades, that she was going to temporarily rem remain behind and do the signaling for them.A good deal of regret was expressed by all who feared for her safty, many of whom camelike herself from W Abbieann, and had known her as a little girl. They wanted to oppose her doing this but she wouldn't relent.Before starting she went to the trench , she got a bottle of wine from a steward and shaking hn hands with all she could, was on the way with George and two men.

"Don't worry about me girls."wh she said."I'll bet you ten to nothing I'll be back."

They then mounted horses given them and riding for a mile together and then Jean said;;

"Here our paths seperate, George, you can'tmiss your way to the top of the hill.I go almost the other way, for the Glandelinian force on our right lies but a short distance from the end of ourposition which we left.If I were you, I should get a little sleep for a while as soonas you get there.Remember you will not see my fireuntill probably one or two oclock.I'm perfectly confident Gertrude will have Angeline Richee safe by then.If you do not see my fire by one oclock you must keep watch till morning for there is no saying when I'll see the chance to light it.Remember if I do not light it, but flare a red signal you flash back with your searchlight covered with red glass three red signals.Whoih whichever the signal is; four white, or three red,------"

"Gertrude said, if there is danger I should flash four Red, and if it is safe Three white."the boy said."."

"Well which ever it is, the danger signal is red"she said.As soon as you see the fire you show the white lights, foun times in the direction of the Greek there.If you see it answered, you will have nothing more to do, if not you must keep on showing the light till o you do get an answer.Meanwhile when the raft reaches under the cliff then come to this spot and wait for me.I shall observe Gertrudes signal down below, but I have alot further to walk than you have, so I will not be there before you.But remember we do not all four leap at once, but only one after the other and in different parts. If we find the raft has not come near the cliff wewill wait till it does come ,then when we find the that there is no one there, we can go to the shore and look for it, but we must look out for the enemy for if the Glandelinians see us they might begin to shoot directly they saw us, without stopping to ask any questions."

Zu Sure enough there was J ack Sanders, and two boys justoutside the stockade, one of them waving a white cloth, the other I no less a person than The former careless boyscout himself.It was stillquite early in the afternoon, and the hottest evening, that was ever experienced.The sky was stillabd dark with forest fire smoke overhead, and the top of the trees far distant rose rodily in the glare of forest fires.But where Jack sanders stood with hisliuene lue lieutenant, all was still or was deep in shadow, and they waded knee knee deep in a low white smoke fog, that had hung low for some reason or other, and probably came from some dried up morass that was smouldering far zaway.The heat, smoke fog, glare, and such a stillness in the air all put together told a poor story of the neighborhood.It was plainly a dangerous regioj region.

"Keep in doors everyone."said Angeline Richee."Ten toone it may not be reinforcements but a trick of the enemy."

The Then she hailed the others outside.

"Who goes there.!Stand or we fire."

"It is I Jack Sanders."We got through the enemys lines and came to reinforce you till Gertrude drives your enemds off."

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Angeline Richee was standing behind a thick tree, keeping herself indeed carefully out of the way of a treacherous shot should any be intended. She turned and spoke to the officers;

"Have every sentry on the lookout. Jack Mic-Hollester take your sentries to the east side, Jim Scannon the left, and right, George Green the next. Every one else to their posts. Lively every one and be careful."

Then she again turned to those on the outside;

"And what proofs are o you to produce that you are not enemy boyscouts in disguise?"

"Our flag of truce" the boy cried."

"And what do o to you want with your flag of truce."?

This time it was one of the other boyscouts who replied.

"Captian Jack Sanders sent by Angelinia Aronburg to reinforce you." He shouted..

"Angelinia Aronburg. Good. How you got through the enemys lines.!" and others could hear her asking to herself; "Captian Jack Sanders after all is it. My heart here's promotion. I didn't think anyone could com here. But I must make sure before I allow them in. Enemy boyscouts could pose as that lad and fool us."

Jack sanders however answered for himself.

"We gave them the slip Miss Richee." "We were willing to take the chances to get through at such danger, and you doubt my word. We are willing to give you aid but if you wo won't let us in it's not our own fault. I have fully sixty six boyscouts with me, and eighteen well armed girls. All I ask is to admit us, for Gertrude isplanning to send big forces to get us all safe and sound out of this region, Miss Richee, safe and sound, and you have delayed one minute already. If the enemy overh overhear us we are lost."

"My boy" said Angeline Richee, "Begging your pardon "Now I have not the slightest overcaution about me, but I have to be careful you know. If you wish to prove yourself to me you first must come alone till I see you face to face. Glandelinians will say even just what you said. If there's any treachery and you are real foe it'll be on your side, and the Lord help you!"

"That's true enough." shouted Jack Saunders, cheerfully. "A word from you is enough. I know a good girlscout and you may lay to that."

They could see the boy who carried the white flag, attempting to hold back, for fear of the stockade being also in the hands of the foe. Nor was that wonderful seeing how cavarlier cavalier had been Angeline's answer. But Jack laughed at him aloud, and salpped him on the back as if the idea of alarm had been absured. Then he dismounted from his horse, the boy with the white flag remaining behind, and climbed the stockade dropping softly to the other side. Angeline Richee in the meantime had seated herself on the threshold of the stockade house orch, with her elbowx elbows on her knees her head in her hands, and her eyes fixed on the water, as it bubbled out of a spring. She was whistling to her self a hymn. Jack had easy time getting up the knoll despite the steepness of it the incline, the thick tree stumps and the soft sand. He stuck to it like a sprite in silence while he came on, and at last arived before the girl, who saw he really was her friend after all, and in twenty minutes all were allowed entrance to the stockade. She was now reinforced. However Jack was trimmed out in his best uniform, and a fine lace hat was set on the back of his head.

"Here you are, my boy." said Angeline, raising her head. "You had better sit down and tell w me what had happened elsewhere?"

"Don't you think it is better for us to go inside?" asked Jack. "No telling who might overh ar us as we sit out here upon the sand."

"All right" said she. "It's your own doing. But I forgot what you are. You are either Gertrudes captian, where you were treated good, or mine where you recieve the same, but how did you get through this dangerous zone."

The boy told her as graphically as possible. He had followed a course whre he knew there were no Glandelinians within sight. Then he ended with;

"A pretty strong defensive place you have of it here. Ah there's jane Jane. I see's she is wounded. Will Angeline I have brought. you myself and my boys girls, and a score of men which I forgot to mention. My there you are to gether like a big happy family, in a manner of speaking, than if you were in such a perilous position. Why Miss Richee, what ails you. You are braver than I thought....."

"I sure am, but if you have anything to say for adfi advice Jack, better say it for our good." said the girl.

"Right you are, Miss Richee." Replied Jack. "Duty is duty for us all to be sure. Well now you look here, that is a good strong position you have sured secured here, and if the fire dosn't come you sure can hold it to the last. I don't deny its a perilous perilious situation but we can hold till

Gertrude sends a big force to our aid. Many of your boys are pretty good with the machine guns which you have. And I'll not deny either, but that we were all turned nervous, I was nervous myself when Gertrude missed you and your followers so long, that's why I'm here now. But you mark me girls "He said raising his voice louder "we can not hold here for twenty four hours, if they get their thundering batteries trained on this fort properly /THEy will blow us all from the earth. We all have to go on sentry duty. Maybe it seems we are like a sheet in winds aye but we ain't. But I'll tell you it was Gertrude who first noticed your absence, we over there too are attacked by the enemy, and if she had been suspicious sooner we'd have been to your rescue sooner. How the Glandelinians cant caught you in the act I cannot make out."

"Well" said Angeline Richee, as cool as can be.

For a moment it seemed tha that all that Jack said her was a riddle, but no one would have ever guessed it from his tone. As for Dolores who was standing close by she began to have an inkling. She began to suppose that Gertrude Angeline was in as much trouble as was Angeline Richee herself, and began to reckon up that Gertrude had a harder problem to deal with.

"Well here it is." said Jack Saunders. "We want to defeat your and her enemies--and we have a chance at it if you'll follow Gertrudes points. You would just as soon save your lives, and so would I or her, or anyone else. You have a chart haven't you?"

"No not now." Said Angeline. "But I know the country as well as if I had one."

"Well I should have known that." returned Jack Saunders. "Of course we needn't be so husky about the Glandelin ians or what they will do, there ain't a particle of sense in sense in that, but we can get the lay to it. what I mean is,, we want your opinion of our plan. You slip out wi h me, and make a get away before the enemy gets wise. The glandelin ians cannot do any harm to us if we outwit them."

"That won't do with me my boy." interrupted Angeline. "We ou rselves here know exactly what the glandelinians meant to do, and we don't care,, but you see, we can 't do as you propose. We'd run into ambush."

And Angeline Richee looked at him calmly, and proceeded to eat an apple."

"If general Manley-----" Jack broke out.

"Avast there Jack." ordd Angeline Richee. "I saw nothing of Manley, and I asked nothing of Manley, and what's more, I would see him and his whole Glandelinian army and the whole landscape be stays on blown clean out of the world into blazes first. So there's my mind for him my boy, on that."

This little whi f of temper seemed to cool Jack down. He had been growing mettled before, but now he pulled himself together.

"Like enough." said he. "I would set no limits to what may e me including myself would like s to see happen to Wanlou Manley and his army or might not as the case may be. At last I wouldn' r wouldnt worry if the earth opened up and swallowed him and his whole gosh darn army and nation together. And as I see you are about to eat an apple, I'll make so free as to do likewise."

And she took an apple, and started eating it, and the boy and girl sat eatingvfor quite a while now looking each other in the face, now taking another bite, now leaning forward to spit out a disagreeable portion. It was as good as a drama to see them.

"Now" resumed Jack "here it is indeed. You and me and all of us can easily give the enemy the sl slip, get through somehow and come to Gertrudes aid yourself. I know the way and I can lead it. You do that and we'll offer you a good choice. I'll give you my word w I can lead you safely thr ugh through the danger zone. We can get aboard the raft once the glandelinians are outwitted. Of if that ain't to your fancy, then you can stay here, till it gets darker, and then we'll start. We'll divide stores and mi munitions with you, girl for girl, boy for boy, and man for man, so we can be well prepared in case the enemy makes an attack. Now you'll own that's talking. Not even a more handsome opportunity could any one get. While we are out of course the enemy might attack us but we can fight them off. Tha There are fourty of us equipped with deadly machine guns, and other awful weapons." And I hope--- raising his voice "That all in this here stockade will overhaul my own words, for what is spoken to all is spoken to every one."

Angeline Richee rose to her feet.

"Are you positive?" she asked.

"Yes."

"And is that all."?

"Every last word." answered Jack warningly. "Refuse to do that and you'll see yourself and us all massacred by the enemy right here in cold blood. Gertrude can't send us aid, the enemy know her intentions. We can break through though if we go in an hour, and I'll take the lead."

"Very good"said Angeline Richee. "But how about Jack Saunders, Jeans deser ter.If Is he still safe."

"No the enemy got him.They killed him as he resisted when they tried to capture him."

"Well then it's too bad but that leaves us free of a prisoner.Now how would yourplan work."?

" If we go from tree to tree in groups, I'll engage to b i bring you all through, and we can take Gertrudes besiegers on the flank.We have here more than she has.She has over three hundred only to defend her, we have here as you told me over four thousand.We'll see the enemy i in Davy Jones before we'll let them outwit us, and get us, and our raft. Gertrude has placed the raft where the enemy can't find it.If any one did they can't sail the raft, there's not a man among the foe fit to sail the raft, and we could regain it easy if there were Glandelinians on board.With the weapons we have with us, and unko unkon unknown to the enemy the Glandelinians can't fight us, we could mowed now down twenty to their mowing down one of us.The Glandelinians are crowded top much too.We can bundleout of thisplace, hand over hand, and double quick, and surprise the enemy."

Angeline's face was a picture her eyes started in her head in her anxiety to reallly outwit the enemy.She took another apple.

"Who will give us a hand in this interprise." Jack Cried.

"I will." returned Dolores."

"Who's brave enough to fight through."?"

"Every one shouted"I."

"There"he cried,"That's what we all think of the enemy, Before an hous out, we'll get through and secure the raft, and aid Gertrude Angeline."

And with a dreadful oath he stumbled off to join his own commands.

THE FIERCE ATTACK. JACKS ADVENTURE ON THE RAFT, DURING A SLIGHT LOWERING OF THE FLOODD. THE CRUISE OF THE SMALL BOAT UNDER FIRE. THE GLANDELINIAN CAPTIAN ON THE RAFT. AND BACK TO ANGELINE RICHEES CAMP.

AS 2 soon as Jack saunders disappeared with his own companies, Angeline Richee who had been closely watching him, tward turned tward the interior of the stockade, and found most of her force just about finishing supper.It was the first time any one had ever seen her reallly angery for three of the boys and five of the girls who had supposed to be doing sentry duty were hot at their posts."

"To your posts you darn fools "she screamed."And then as they slunk back to theirposts"Captian Gray" she said,I'll put your name in the Regiment books, your troop of guards stood by their duty like true soldiers. Captain Krahl, I'm surprised at your boys sir.Daniel I thought you had worn a new uniform for obedience.If i that is how you serve out, you have better resign."

The sentries therefore were all back at their watching posts, while the main companies within were getting ready t to make the surprise sortie as Jack proposed, And every one with an excited anxious face you may be certain, and ready for the move. Angeline Richee looked on for a few minutes in silence.Then she. shouted.Into line.Attention.everyone, officers and all. Guards remain where you are untill further orders."

Then Then after all were in formation, she spoke again;;;;;2

" Attention Companies "said she."I've given the machine guns into the hands of those who know how to use them best.If when we go out, the enemy moves to attack us, give the Glandelinians a broadside.Pitch it in red hot, or we won't be able to advance.We have nearly five thousand with us, Gertrude plans to give me aid, h and has only five hundred, three which are men.Of dourse bth of us are outnumbered, I needn't tell you that, but we fight from behind trees as we advance, and with discipline.I've no manner of doubt we can drub the Glandelinians, if you choose because we have the advantage of machi machine guns, unless they got any, but if they have, we can grenade their nests."

Then she marched up and down to make an inspection, and the guards reported thatall was clear, and that it was getting dark.

North of the stockade, and east and west, there was two groups of very high trees, on the south side, the main forest stretch.Every one had good reliable weapons, and every boy and girl and man had a sword or sabre in case to defend th mselves if attacked at close quarters.It was a dangerous undertaking, it might cause them heavy losses, but Angeline was going to take the dare.It's was the only means of escape. Someone proposed to set the stockades on fire,.

"No"said Angeline,"We'll have lots of smoke in o our eyes, and besides it'll make too big a light, and reveal to the enemy our movements."

"Every one is ready Miss Richee"said Dolores.

"All right.Lively now lads, and you girls; you'll want every nerve before it is done. Hunter you and your officers, serve out a round of brandy to all before we start out.It'll make them more courageous as this is a very risky undertaking and might result in heavy loss, but I hope not."

And while this was going on, Angeline completed, in her own mind the plan of advance.

"Dolores,You will take the left wing."she resumed.See but don't expose yourself, Keep within your defiles.Angeline Jennings, take the Right.Joyce aid her and stand by her left. Jean though you are slightly wounded I know you won't mind bringing up the rear. Hedda you are the best shot, you and Angeline Rae, and Kuaffman will t k take the left, it's there the danger is.If the enemy come up to us and surpruse us things would begin to look dirty. Marie Stanck, neither you or I are much account o in our condition just now at the shooting party, we'll stand by in the advance and use machine guns."

As Jack had said the dar mess darkness was coming fast/But just the same Angeline Richee feared that the venture would not be so much of a success, for as soon as the darkness had come, the glare of distant forest fires had seemed to climb even above their girdle of trees, and fell with its its forceful reflection upon the clearing, and the heat of the air drank up all vapors th that might have been coming from the distant waters at a draught.All day long the sand had been baking, and the resin melting in the logs of the block houses, and still now it being night there was no relief.

Jackets and coats had been flung aside, shirts had been thrown open at the neck, and now as all were were staring on the way cautiously and slowly through the open gates of the stockades they were in a fever of heat and excitement and anxiety.

An hour passed af away after their departure, and still no signs of the enemy.

"Hang them."said Angeline Richee."This is as dull as the doldrums. I don't believe the enemy had remained.Colonel Teen whistle for something won't you."

Just at that moment came the first signs of danger."

"If youplease Miss Richee"said A boyscout whose name was Jimmie,"If I see any of the Glandelinians approaching tward us, is it that I'm allow to fire first?"

"Suit yourself."said Angeline.

"Thank you Miss Richee."returned Jimmie, with the same quiet civil civility. Nothing followed for a time, but the remark had set every one within hearing on the alert, straining eyes and ears, the men with their muskets at a ready, Angeline Richee in the middle of the Central column with her mouth very tight, and a frown on her face.What she feared most was that the sound of conflict may bring down the fire of distant Glandelinian batteries. So some seconds passed, till suddenly a score of men suddenly opened fire in front with one report.The report had scarcely died away, ere it was repeat ed and repeated in hundreds of shots; and in scattering volleys, volley behind volley, ending at times into a clattering fire, and returning to volleys, from every side in front of the advancing column.As many as pos sible had immediately taken defense behind all kinds of shelter, and returned the fire untill there was a perfect "song of musketry.

"Shall we use the machine guns?" asked one of the boyscout officers.

"No, not till the devils charge"said Angeline.

Many bullets struck the trees and prot ecting objects but not one of Angelines force yet was hit, but by the cries there were many of the Glandelinians hit.Yet the gleam of flashes betrayed the presence of the foe.

"Did you hit your man."Asked Jack oOne of his lieutenants.

"I hit too Jack.But I do not believe I killed them."

"Next best thing to tell the truth." muttered Angeline Richee to her self.Then she added aloud to Jack who was within hearing, when the firing had slackened down alittle"How many are firing upon you in your location, Jack?"

"I do not know precisely."said Jack"But there were over a hundred at one volley, and countless numbers after that.I saw the many flashes, many close together in lines--the main wave of flashes farther to the east."

"So I see. More than two hundred "repeated Angeline Richee."And how many on your's Dolores?"

But she could not easily answer this.There had come many from her point of view, all in fussl fusnilades of volleys--seven seperated lines seem to have opened fire by Jeans computation, eight or nine, according to Jane.From the east and west only a single volley, at slow intervals had yeah been fired. Jean Gray had been wounded a second time but still stuck to herpost.It was plain therefore, that the attack would be developed along Dolores point of the line, and that the other three columns were only to be annoyed by a show of hostilities.But Angeline Richee did not believe it wise or safe to make any change in her arrangements.If she weaked any other column the Glandelinians if they succeeded in crossing would tak takepossession of any rise of ground in the rear, and shoot them all down like rats in the forests. And the greatest dread was of the enemys batteries on the heights above. Nor had he much time left for thought, suddenly with a loud yell, a cloud of gray figures, leaped from the woods on Dolores side, and charged straight on the men.At the same time the fire of the enemy elsewhere was renewed with greater vigor, and a rifle ball knocked Angelinespistol from her hand, and kco knocked a boys small rifle into bits.The fierce Glandelinians attacking the soldiers swarmed forward like so many monkeys, the boys and men with the machine guns, kept up a continual fire and mowed them down firing again and again also with musketry, three hundred Glandelinians fell in several minutes, and one surge of them close to the defenders, two platoons back in the rear. Indeed as fast as they came on they were shot away by the machine guns,, and the glandelinians who were more exposed or those who were not shot down threw themselves behind trees and opened a fierce fire on them.More than two hundred had been killed, but the rest of the Glandelinians again came on, and despite the fact they were mowed down so quickly, four hundred had made good their footing, and drove the men soldiers before them with the bayoney bayonet, while from the shelter of

the woods an unknown number of Glandelinians, kept up a hot but useless fie on the others.The four hundred as theypushed back the soldiers shouted and blasphemed as they ran, and the men among the trees shouted back to encourage them.Suddenly boys who were behind a natural defense in the rear, flung a volley of grenades, and a whole line of the Glandelinian soldiers were blown to bits.But in a moment the other three hundred had swarmed close and were upon the Abyssinkilinians. however the other soldiers not in the fight rushed to give the aid, while the officers shouted;

"At em, everybody at em."

"Down with the Glandelinian hell hounds."roared the men."

At the same moment the Glandelinians who were pressing on were on the point of victory.A fierce bayonet fight started, and one glandelinian grasped Colonel Hendons musket by the muzzle;wrenched it from his hands, and with one stunning blow laid the poor fellow dead on the ground.Meanwhile a Glandelinianofficer appeared suddenly and fell with his sabre upon Dolores, who brought him down with a pistol shot through the head.The positions of the soldiers, and the boys and girls was utterly reversed.A moment since they had been firingunder cover, at an exposed enemy, now it seemed it was they who lay uncovered, but nevertheless those of the boys and the men with the machine guns had not been driven back and they now had a chang chance to open a cross fire upon the Glandelinians; and brought down one whil whole column at a sweep of their fire.The woods was full of smoke, to which the christian girl and boy scouts not only owed their comparative safty but also their crushing victory.Cries and confusion; the noise of machine guns, the thunder of exploding grenades; confusion; the yells of the enemy; the flashes and reports of pistol shots, the rattle of musketry; and all the noises of battle shook the woods.

"For ward lads, forward, and fight them in the open."cried the officers. "Use bayonets."cried Angeline."

She snatched a sabre from a fallen Glandelinian, and stooping at the same time snatching another, accidentally gave her a cut across the knuckles which she hardly felt.The sabre being a mans size was kind of heavy for her but she dashed foward.Someone was close behind, she knew not whom.Right in front a little girl though she was Dolores was pursuing an undersized assailant down a rise, and just as Angelines eyes fell upon her, beat down his guard, and sent him sprawling on his back, with a slash across the face.

Forward. "cried the officers."The glandelinians are retreating.

Mechanically Angeline obeyed the impulse, turned northwards, and with her big sword raised, ran forward as the others did.Next moment she was face to face with a burly Glandelinian officer.He roared and blasphemed aloud; and his sabre went above his head, flashing in the distant fire light.Angeline struck back to ward off the blow, and knocked him down, but the impact unbalanced her, and she was rolling headlong down the slope.When she had first sallied forth, the other glandelinians had already been swarmed swarmin swar swarming foward to make an end of them.One glandelinianofficer in a red night cap, with his sabre raised, had plunged forward, but Jane brought him down.Well so short had been theinterval, than when Angeline found her feet again the glandelinians were on the run, and the others pushing on through with very small loss after all, and the victory was theirs.Jane followed close behind Angeline Richee having shot down another rebel ere he had time to run.Another had been shot as he rushed for Angeline Jennings and now lay in agony, the pistol still smoking in his han da.A third Glandelinian as she had seen, Dolores had disposed with a shot.Of a score of others who remained ion ger to continue the fight only one remained and he was clamberingout of a hole he had been knocked into, and with the fear of death upon him had taken out his Handkerchief and held it up in token of surrender.

"Go back to your comrades you darn fool."shouted Dolores "Or I fire.We don't bother with prisoners.Get or I fire despite your white flag you rat. Beat it."

And he did, and the last Glandelinian made good his escape,and disappared with the rest into the wood.In three seconds nothing remained of the enemy but the great number who had fallen killed or wounded; how many no one could tell in the dark.The whole column finding no one had been killed among their number except one man, thought the result a miracle.The woods was by this time somewhat cleared of smoke, and they saw as theypushed on what a price the enemy had paid for their attack, but Angeline saw too on her side a number had been wounded.Jack Sanders had been stunned, and Joyce another boy had been wounded on the side of the head, while even Milf Mildred Max well was being supported by two girls, the three as pale as one or the other.

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"Mildred's wounded,"said Jane.

"And so am I"Said Angeline Jennings."

"Are the enemy still running!"asked Mildred.

"They are sure doing t it ,all that can; you may be bound." returned Angeline Jennings bandaging her hand"But there's hundreds of them who will never run again."

"Hundreds."cried Angeline Niches."That's the second time we've inflicted a heavy loss on them without serious loss, toourselves; and this time better, as we have only one who was killed.That's better odds than we had at the starting.We can push on now, quickly and get to Gertrudes aid. How's Jackits he hurt too."?

"No he's only stunned.He's coming too,"said a boy."He is making it we have won."

There did not seem to be no attempted counter charge of the enemy but nevertheless every one had to fight it out during their advance, for from nearly every quarter now, even from the rear more flashes from shouts came flittering back and forth then a person could imagine, and the reports were a continual roar. The glandelinian soldiers were in overwhelming numbers , but at a grave disadvantage because of the dangerous weapons of the defenders; and therefore afraid to show themselves in the open.every one now had to press on despite the danger; and even in the darkest part of the woods they dou could hardly tell what they were at; for horror of annihilation; and the loud groans thatvcame from so many Glandelinian wounded that reached them from the places they had just left.Out of the eight hundred Glandelinians who had fallen, eight glandelinian officers were among them; and only three of the officers still breathed-- that one who had been shot by Mildred before she was wounded, James Scannon another rebel officer,and Captian Tanner, of these two the first were as good as dead, for the general died, and the other never recovered.Helingered all that night, breathing l oudly, but the bones of his chest had been crushed by the blows of amusket butt at the hands of one of the Abyssinkilians, and his skull fractured in falling against a trees trunk,and sometime in the morning without sign or sound, he went to give an account to his Maker, probably an awful cause; since we readers know what a horribly wicked cause the glandelinians re are fighting for.

As for Mildred, and Jane Wolfort tho their wounds were grievous indeed, and Jenny too but not dangerous; and a hundred Abyssinkilian soldiers, and fourty girls, and ten bo boys needed bandages for their wounds.No one however was fatally injured.A musket ball had hit Mildred, almost breaking her shoulder blade, and touched herlung but not badly; the second had only torn and displaced some muscles in the thigh. She was positively sure to recover, but it was feared that in the meantime for two weeks to come she would not be able to walk normove her right arm; nor do much as to speak when she could help it.

Sometime later for some reason the firing of the enemy stopped gradually, and Jack Saunders led the war down through a secret gully by which he had come having finally gave the enemy the slip.Here in the thick darkness without making a light the columns were halted; and Angeline Niches, and the two Jennings, sat on each side of Mildred, who was lying between two others where those who had been carrying her left her during the halt. And all the girlscout officers were soon in consultion; and when they had talked in whispers to their hearts content; it being a little past ten oclock one of the boy scout officers took up his hat and pistols, girt on his small boyscout sword, put something like grenades in his p bag which he had slung horsess his back, and with the hand machine gun slung across his shoulder, saluted Angeline, bowed and started off alone, through the trees.

Nettie Kauffmann and Mary Glorinin were sitting together out of earshot of the consulting officers, and she was to so thunderstook at the boy going off alone that she almost fell over.

"Why in the name of Heavy is Whilliam Jones mad!"she asked.

"Why no."said Nettie."He's about the last of our regiments of boyscouts for getting that way I'm sure...."""

"Well Nettie"said Mary,"He may not be mad, but if he is not, you mark my words I am then. Why is he going out alone.It's rank suicide."

"I believe,"said Mary"The boy hasthis idea of going tosee whether the raft is safe, and if I am right I'll bet it's Jack Sanders."

she was right. He had been selected during the counsil to go forth through the danger region, and he started out.It seemed very foolhardy if the reader likes to say so, and that he may be doing a bold fo lhardy act, an overbold act in a fact, but he was determined to do it, with all the precauti precautions in hispower.He had taken also rations, for should anything

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befall him on the way, it would keep him at least from starving till far on in the next day.As for his ammunition, that too was adeded.He was well supplied with arms for he had a good brace ofpistols, all fourty five cartridge chambers, and plenty of cartridges for the pistols; and munitions for his little machine gun.The damp atmosphere despite it being night was stifling hot.Everyone were sitting grilling with their clothes almost wet from sweat, and so many dead bodies lying all round the region; and all the rest had therefore a disgust of the place and started forward again slowly, and cautiously.

As for the scheme that Jack had in his head,put there by Angeline Niches , it was not a bad one at all. He was to go down a large sandypit, that divided the cove on the southeast from the open flood, find a tall white rocky ledge, which Angeline Niches had observed last evening according to her statement, and ascert in whether there was any good sized boats, a thing worth doing.He was to go forth to spy toward the raft, to seewhether it was still safe, and if not to do as she planned, done a uniform as a gray coated scout, board the raft, pretend to be a hand for the enemy soldiers and secure the raft by a trick.But as the boyscout officer thought of the plans, and as he was certain h he should not be allowed to do anything too reckless, her only plan was to do what she suggested, and to slip near the raft when nobody was looking, and if he donned the gray uniform to miss look out for Gertruden"gang, as then he would be in danger of being fired on from any side.He must t do it when no one was watching, not to be seen by the parties of either side, otherwise he might do the thing wrong, and a blunder even like he used to do in his careless ways, would cost his life.As he was the youngest of the boys, she had had her mind made up for she felt sure he could succeed.And she had said;

"Make sure whether the report of Jack saunders being killed by the enemy is true or not.I don't believe a word of it.He might have betrayed us and himself, to save his life."

Well as things turned out, the boy found an admirable opportunity. He came upon a most of glandelinian soldiery, but as they were busy attending to their wounded, the coast was clear; and the boy made a bolt bolt of i t over a rise of ground, by crawling hands andknees, and got into the thickest of the t e trees where the glare of distant fires would not reveal his movements. This seemed to many a folly for him, far worse than the adventure of the most dangerous spying exploits, but it would be a help toard saving the raft, and all the force, but he was surrounded by glandelinian soldiery, and it would be difficult to get through.He had to go a long way too by merely crawling, and only at night could it be accomplished.If even the glare of the distant forest fire would show too much his plan would be greater to be accomplished than a miracle.It would be even an impossibility.He took his w y way on hands and knees toward the northeast first, for he was determined to go down the flood side of the spit, to avoid all chances of observation from even the cave.He had proceeded about one quarter of the way, when there came a sharp challenge;

"Who goes there.Give the counter cha sign."

As the boy could omit to know kind of a bird or animal, he gave the cry of a night owl. It was already late in the night,and still hot, and close, and the sentry who ever he was wondered how a bird could be even there when a forest fire drivingout everycreature.He criedout;

"Halt Mr Bird.You're a creeping fool of a man imitating a bird.You who only twenty paces from my observation post.Come now nearer and I'll fire."

Jack was puzzled.He knew what he could do, if he knew for sure whether the sentry was a christian soldier or not;and so, then suddenly he decided to make a scheme.He knew how to find out without exposing himself or his hiding place.He also could throw his voice some where else, and he did so setting up the words;

"Oh Lord of Heaven Have Mercy upon the dying."

"Hey you over there."shouted the sentry."This is no christian camp.Stop that.You'll draw the Christian dogs down upon us."

Now Jack knew it was a glandelinian sentry.Cautiously and carefully he changed his course, and crawled through the tall weeds, and how he could hear far before hi , not only the continuous thunder of the flood but a certain tossing of foliage and grinding of boughs which showed a breeze was spring up from the west.Soon cool drag draughts of air began to reach him, and a few minutes more of crawling forth brought him into the open borders of a grove, and he saw the distant flood lying black, and the waves of it tumbling and tossing its foam along the shore.

From its wilden wildness he had a fair seen the flood quiet for its currents produced great rollers which ran along the shore thundering, and thundering by day and night, and no one within a mile or more would be out of earshot of the noise. Jack looking cautiously about him to prevent himself from being surprised, crawled and walked slowly along the shore, taking the cool breeze with great enjoyment, till thinking he was now far enough to the south-west, started forward, when there was the crack, crack, crack, of th ee three distant rifles, and bullets singed close to him, and instantly he took the cover of some thick heavy bushes scaring a rabbit as he did so, and crept warily up to the ridge of thepit to see who was firing the shots.

"Gosh I must look out. I'm mistaken for an enemy now. It's Gertrude firing the three shots. How will I go forth unseen. Gosh hang my gray uniform. It makes me look like an enemy. She can spot anything."
makes me look like an enemy. She can spot almost anything.".

For a moment he did not dare to move. Behind him was the flood, in front the cove, and at a distance lay the floating mass of wreckage close ashore. The west breeze as though it had sooner blown the- out itself out by its unusual violence, was already at an end, it had been succeeded by light var iable airs from the south and east, carrying great banks of smoke in the distance over the waterslike a fog cloud, and the cove itself lay still and quite, the water there was leaden in color. The raft in that unbroken mirror mirror was exactly portrayed for the distance it stretched, and the boy gave a gasp. The gl n glandelinian flag was hanging from the high mast and a number of glandelinians were aboard of her. Now he realized for truth. The glandelinians on the raft had seen him and they it was who fired. Alongside lay one of the glandelinian gasoline launches, a glandelinian officer in the stern sheets, while a number of men were leaning over the stern bulwarks with rifles point tward shore, one of them with a purple hat. Apparently they were waiting for him to re-appear, though at that distance, upwards of a mile he could of course could not hear whether they were still talking or not. All at once there began the most horrid unearthu unearthly screaming, which startled the boy badly, thinking it might have been the so wardly boy scout tortured by the glandelinians, but he suddenly made out a bird flying upward and realized it was a falcon. A glandelinian brought it down with a c ouple of shots. Soon a t after the boats a pushed off and to his surprise and dis may pushed for shore, and the man with the purple hat landed. Just about the same time the redness of the distance to fire glare had slightly gone down and as the fog of smoke was collecting rapidly it began to grow blacker. Jack saw that he must lose no time if he were to get aboard the raft before daylight. What made him feel good, it evidently seemed as if it were beginning to rain, or was he just imagining it. There was a tall steep rock visible enough above the brush, but was about a mile further down the spit as that shape of land is called, and it took hime good long while to reach it, crawling often on all fours, to avoid being seen by the enemy, and going among the scrub. Often he heard a one changeing and had to stop untill he was sure it was safe to go ahead. Once he literally was chan challenged by Gertrude herself from the heights to the north, and several up there fired in his direction. Finally the boy reached the hill. Right below it there was an exce edingly small hollow or green turf hidden by c some banks and a thick undergrowth about knee deep, that grew there very pent plentifilly , and in the center of the dell, he found something that looked like a long boat.

He dropped into this hollow, lifted the side of a overhanging cloth and found the boat in good shape. The thing was extremely small however even for him, and he could hardly imagine that it could have floated with a full six sized man. There was one thwart set as low as possible, a kind of strat-cher in the bows,,, and a double paddle for propulsion/. He had never seen a boat such as any person made, but he had seen one once as nanchient persons made, and he could have no fairer idea of this boat, than by saying it was like the first and worst kind of boat ever made by man. But it certainly possessed great advantage for him, for it was exceedingly light and portable.. Well now that he had secured a boat, he now decided to try the other plan Angeline richese had suggested. Hazardous as it was he was getting obstinately fond of this adventure, so fond of it, that he would have carried it out in the teeth of Satan himself. This was to slip out under cover of this dark and smoky night, cut the raft adrift as she suggested, and let it go ashore somewhere where she fancied, and then he was to try and get on board and hold it fast near the cliff beyond where Gertrude now was. It was a dangerous undertaking, he might get shot by both sides, but he must do it. He had quite made up his mind, that the glandelinians who maybe in possession and the main glandelinian hordes, after their two bloody repulses, had nothing

nearer their hearts than to try and besiege the defenders, this Jack thought it would be a fine thing to prevent, and now that the boy observed how those who were in charge of the raft, had left their guard unprovided without or with a boat, he believed he could accomplish his work with little risk. He was just starting to crawl forward, when a shot came from the heights above. Down he sait towait for the smoke fog to hide everything, for he was in danger of being fired on from both sides. It was a night out of ten thousand for his purpose, and if he failed, now all would be lost, and the whole of Gertrudes army of girls and boys would not escape the enemy. Finally the smoke fog seemed to have buried all of heaven ,and earth, everything seemed to dwindle and disappear, absolute blackness, settled down. And when at last the boy shouldered the little boat, and grouped his way stumblingly out of the hollow where he had waited, there were but two points visible on the whole cove. One was a great fire on shore about a mile away throwing its glare. The other far to the north a mere blur of rose colored glare upon the darkness, indication indicating the far distant blaze. Despite the fog he could when looking sharply enough locate the position of the raft: she had swung round to the "ebb of the flood--her boy was now tward the boy scout ---the only lights on board were in one of the bigger tents, and what the boy saw was merely the reflection on the fog of the strong rays, that flowed from the tent opening.

It seemed the flood had slightly receded indeed, and he had to wade through a long belt of muddy ground where he sank a several times above the knees, before he came to the edge of the retreating water, and wading a little in, with some strength n and dexterity set the boy, keel downwards, on the surface. This boat indeed, was a very safe boat, on the calm part of the flood for a boy of his height and weight, both good, and clever in a seaway, but as he soon learned it was the most crossgrained, lop sided craft to manage. The boy could do as he pleased, the boat always made more leeway, than anythingelse, if he wanted it to go nor north, it would go south, if he wanted it to go south, it would go west, and so on, or otherwise would also keep turning round and round in the same spot like on a pivot: she turned in every direction but the one the boy was bound to go, the most part of the time they were broadside on, and the boy was very sure he should never have made the raft at all but for the current of the flooddd. By good fortune paddle as he pleased,, the current was still sweeping him down t ward it and there lay the huge raft right in the fairway in deep, hardly to be missed. First she loomed boy before him like a blot of something wide and very long, yet blacker than darkness, then her spars and side railings began to take shape and the next moment, as it seemed,(for the further he went the brisker grew the current of the flood)he was alongside her hawser, and had lain hold. The h" hawser was a strong and taunt as a bowstring, and the current so strong even in the cove, that the big raft pulled at her anchor. All around the raft, in the blackness, the re- r rippling current bubled and chatered like a little mountain stream/. One cut with his long sharp knife and the raft would go humminh humn humming down the flood and those on board would have a terrible time of it, as there was not a paddle or an ore so oar on board. So far so good but it next occured to the boy that a taut hawser, suddenly cut, is a thing as dangerous as a kicking horse. Ten to one if the boyscout were so foolhardy as to cut the big raft from her anchor, he and the boat would be knocked clean out of the w water, and he himself killed or drowned, or the noise would arose those on board, and the two parties of enemies on shore. This sudden recollection brought Jack to a full stop. But fortune again pare particularly favored him or otherwise he would have been forced to abandon his design. But the light breezes which had begun blowing from the southeast, had again renumed to the westward and then veered northwest. Just while Jack was pondering and meditaiting, a strong squall came, caught the raft, and fored her up into the flood current with a sort of "boom" and to the boys great joy, he felt the hawser slacken in his grasp and the hand by which he held it dip for a second under water. Hismind was immediately made up, he took out his big knife, opened it with his teeth, and cut one strand after another, till the vessel swung only by two. Then he lay quiet, hearing voices on shore, waiting to severe these last, when the strain should once more be lightened by a strong breath of wind. All this time he heard the sound of voices from the big tent, but the boys mind had been so entirely te n taken up with other thoughts and the peril of his undertaking that he had not listened a moment. Now however when Jack had nothing else to do, he listened.

He couldn't however recognize the voices: both men were plainly angry about something something, for even while the boy scout was listening one of them with a loud cry, pushed open the entrance way of the tent and threw

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something ould which the boy believed to be some sort of a hook.It was plain they were furiously angry about something.Oaths flew like blizzards, and every now and then there came forth such an explosion of words as the boy thought was a sign the Glandelinians were cursing against the christians and the whole world. On shore he could easily see the glow of the great distant forest fire glowing brightly through the far distant trees. some one on shore was signing a dull dull old droning Glandelinian war song of some kind, with a droop and a quavar at the end of every voi verse, and there seemd to be no end of it at all, but the patience of the singer.Jack had heard Glandelinians sing it more than once, but could not remember the words, and he listened this time carefully and heard these few lines:|

"But one christian dogline came out alive,
What went to battleout of sevet seventy five .
Our own line, drew out our captian to dine,
And we hung a christian dog to the lonesome pine."

And indeed Jack thought itwas a ditty rather too dolefully appropriate for a troop of Glandelinians, that had already wise this time met such cruel losses that evening, and night.But indeed what from Jack Saw andunderstood, all the Glandelinian soldiers were as sailous as the hell they all will go to.At last the breeze came, the raft, sidled and drew nearer in the dark, he felt again the hawser slacken, and with a good tough effort, cut the last ropes through..The breeze had but slight effect on the small boat, and the boy was almost swept against the side of the raft.At the same time with a spurt of spray the big raft began to turnupon her "heel" spinning slowly. end for end, across the current of the flood. Jack indeed wrought like a'fiend ish imp, for he expected every moment to be swamped, and since he found he could notpush the little boat direct directly off, he now made a desperate shove straight astern.At length after some trying effort he was clear of his dan dangerous neighbor, and just as he gave the last impulsion his hands came across a light cord that was trailing overboard across the stern bulwarks.Instantly the boy grasped it. but why he did it he could not hardly say.It was at firstwere instinct but once he had it in his hands and found it fast curiousity began to get the upper hand, and he determined he should havesone look at the crew on board the raft.He pulled in hand over hand on the long cord, and when the boy judged himself near enough, rose at infinite risk to about half his height, and thus commanded the surface of the raft flooring, and all its contents and a slice of the interior of the big tent which was nearest.By this time the raft, and the little boat were glid ing pretty swiftly through the water, indeed they had already fetched up quite level, with the glare of fires in the distance.The raft was treading the great ripples with an incessant wi waltering spaul splash, anduntill the boy got his eye above the tent opening he could not comprehend why the Glandelinian soldiers on board the raft had taken no alarm.One glance however, was sufficient, and it was onlyone glance that he dared to take from that unsteady little skiff.The light showed him, a number of Glandelinians sitting about a table doing some sort of writing..The boy therefore drop ped upon the thwart again, none too soone soon for he was near overboard. He could see nothing for the moment but those furious Glandelinian soldiers,and the boy shut his eyes to let them grow once more familiar with the darkness. The endless ballad on shore had finally neared its finish at last and the whole forest on shore from thousands of voices had broken loudly into the chorus|

"Di Fifteen million christians have died in battle,
Down with them all ,down with them all,
Des troy and the Devil will help us do the best,
Good, good, good, and down with them all."

The boy was du just now thinking how bust the war and the devil were at that very moment in the whole country, when he was surprised by the sudden lurch of the little boat.something hit it.At the same moment she yawed sharply and seemed to change her course, and the speed strangely had increased.

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He opened his eyes at once.The glare of the fire was brighter, and he could see all around him ripples, combing over with a sharp bristling sound and slightly reflecting the fire glows.The huge raft itself a few yards in whose wake the boy was still being whirled along seemed to stagger in her course and he saw her spars toss a little against the blackness of the night, nay as he looked longer, he made sure she also was wheeling to the southward, the direction he did notintend it to go.The boy glanced over his shoulder, and it seemed as if his heart leaped against his ribs.There right behind him was the glow of a camp fire, on shore, and soldiers started to open fire toward the water, for they saw the ship was adrift, and to make it worse two great glaring searchlights flared from the heights, taking in the water at great sweeps sweeps.To make it worse the current of the flood here had turned at right angles, sweeping round along with it the long raft and thevlittle dancing boat, ever quickening, ever building higher bubbling higher, ever muttering louder it went spinning through the narrows for the open flood.

Suddenly the big raft in front of the boy gave a violent turn turning perhaps through twenty degrees, and almost at the same moment, the Glandelinians on shore set out a roar, while a tumult of shouts came from on board the raft, the boy could hear feet pounding on the raft flooring, saw lantrens flaring, and knew that the Glandelinians on the raft had at last been interrupted in htheir work and awakened to a sense of their disaster. As the searchlights from shore grew more numerous, the boy lay flat down in the botton of that wretched little skiff and devoutely recommended himself to Our Blessed Lord.Not only the peril of the enemy discovering him, but at the north stretch of flood he made sure the skiff would fall or ride into some wreckage jam where all his adventure would be ended speedily, and though he could perhaps bear to die, he could not bear to look upon his fate as it approached.So he must have lain for several minutes comtinually beaten to and fro upon the flood billows, now and again wetted with flying sprays, and never ceasing to expect death at the next plunge.Once to his horror one of the lights near came revealing the skiff, and the light fully struck the raft, revealing it fully and the excited gestul ating Glandelinians on shore. How the boy did pray..The searchlights made it appear broad day on the raft,and the boy could see, and also his skiff was tossing at the southwest Bend of the land, after all ju at where Gertrude had planned it to be for jean and the others to leap.The glare of distant forest fire was as bright as if the sun was rising but the glare was behind the great bulk of the distant forest which descended in this location almost to the flood in formidable seas of its own.A portion of the Red Riding Hood forest was at the boys elbow, a hill forested and black against the background of fire light.He realized he was scarce a quarter of a mile to the northward, and to avoid the flashlights and those on board the raft, it was his first thought to paddle in and land.

The motion was [illegible] ever.among a certain stretch of rocky land over which the flood topped the flood rushed in bellowing spouting breakers, and heavy sprays flew and fallwith ou loud reverbrations, succeeding one another from second tobsecond, and the boy observe to his dismay that id he dared to approach any nearer, he would be dashed to death upon the rought landsope half covered under water, or spending his strength in v i vain to scale the bantling crags.Nor was that all, for crawling together on large flat tables of land or letting themselves drop into the water witho with loud reports, he beheld huge peculiar brightly.colored creatu creatures monsters in size---seemingly reptilian Lizards as it were, of incredible bigness---tow two or three score of them together, flapping their wings and so forth making the rocks to echoe with their cries and then all disappearing into the flood and swimming away.He understood they were the well known Blengiglomenean Creatures, and though entirely harmless to all good people and those of the christian side, it would not do for t him to allow himself to be seen by any of them in hus disguise of gray.But the look of them, his consciousness of his gray uniform, the frowning batteries of the enemy on shore, added to the difficudy of the shore, and the high running of the floood again was more more than enough to disguist the boy scout of that landing place. and he feared the glandelin ians only by right, for if there was a chancemeeting with the "Roverines" he could es easily discard his gray uniforms and they therefore would not harm him. He knew the blengins all right and their nature.

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He felt willing rather tostarve or perish on the flood than to confront such perils from the Glandelinians, when they would learn he fooled them by casting the raft adrift. In the meantime he had a better chance, the searchlights did not touch the little boat ,and one of the glares only fell full in the face of one of the Blengins, who dived under water after admitting a terrific roar that brought a crwd of soldiers on shore to see what it was that made the noise.The boy believed he could be a little safer by keeping closer to these creatures who mightprotect him in an emsrgency.N orth of a stretch of land not under water, knewn ad Evangeline's Bend the land stretchd forested in along way.To the north of that he saw a high cliff, and on top were a few christian scouts and some men , though what they were doing up there hevknew not, though he distinguished a gil and a boy, the former which looked to him more like Jean.He remembered what Gertrude had said about the flood current that rushed southward along this whole stretch of inundated land,and seeing from hiscpo i position that he was already under its influence,, and noticing that someone about three girls were noticing the craft by the aid of lights were running alone along shore, believing it was an enemy spy, and he could occassionally hear cracks of pistols, and the whistle of bullets flying or passing overhead, and he had to lie down to avoid being shot.He was facing the fire of both friend and foe.He therefore preferred to leave this location behind him,and reserve his sre strength to attempt to land upon the kindly clooking shore thickly wooded, and all clear of smoke.There was a great swift current indeed in the flood, but there was fortunate for him an immense clear space lf of water, no floating wreckage jams which would have sunk him in a jiffy.The wind was blowing steadily and gently from the southwest there was no c cont" contrary between that and the current,and the flood reared and swished past the shore.Had there been any flood drift, or floating houses, or had any of the enemys search lights spotted him hemust long ago have perished,, but as it was it is surprisingly how easy and securely thelittle andlight boat could ride the rough billows of the floood. Often as he lay still at the bottom to avoid shots from shore and kept no more than an eye above th the gunwhale, he would see a big black summitt, heaving close above him, yet the boat would but bounce a trifle, dance as if on s r springs, or whirl round and roun as if on a pivot, or shoot straight ahead as if on a roar road and then subside on the other side into the trough as lightly as a bird.

After awhile aw as it was very quiwt, and the lights of distant forest fires, grew dimmer, and the enemys searchlights w went out, the boy began to grow a little belder, and sat up to try his skill at paddling. At that moment, there came the "Boom"of some cannot, and he had scarcely moved before something struck the water near the boat which produced violent changes in the behavoir of the boat for it gave up at once her gentle dancing movement rose up and down as if on a leap spring, and ran down a slope of water so steep that it made the boy giddy, and struck her nose with a sprout of spray deep into the side of the next wave v formed by the falling object into the water.He was drenched and terrified, and fell instantly back into his old position, just as a volley of shots sounded from shore, and then the boat seemed to find her head again, and led him forward as softly as before through the flood.It was plain that hemust not even show himself, and yet at that rate since he could in no way change her course, by paddling,what hope had he of reaching land under fire.He began to be horribly frightened, but nevertheless he kept his wits about him for all that. How could the enemy gunner have seen him in the dark.He believed the enemy had night telescops and they examined all strange black objects that were moving in the water to see if w any were boats.First of all with care, and moving carefully so as not to show himself, he gradually baled out the w boat with his soldier camp cap, then getting his eye onsemore abo above the gunwale, he set himself to study how it was she managed to slip so quietly through the rolars of the flood.He found each roll wave of the flood nearest shore, instead of being the smooth glossy mountain of waves they appear on sea, or like any range of hills full of peaks and smoothplaces and valleys, was like so many rushing rolls and splashes, and the boat left, to itself, turning from side to side threaded so to speak her way through the safer parts, and avoided the steep high rushs of water, and higher toppling summits of the biggest waves.

"Well now"he thought to himself"Itisplain if I do not want to be sunk by shell,s or shot from shore I must lie where I am, and not disturb the balance either, but it is plain also that if I can put the paddle over the side, and from time to time, in the smooth places, give a shove or two twerd land I may accomplish something....."

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No sooner said then done.There he lay on his elbows in the most trying attitude and every now and again gave a weak stroke or two to turn her head to shore. It was very tiring, and slow work, and even his movements brought more firing from shore, but the bullets went too high, and he did visibly gr gain ground, and as he drew near something that like d like a cape in the flood though he saw hemust infalliby miss that point if he wanted to live he still had som hundred yards of moving eastward.He was indeed close in.In the darkness he could see a black wall that he knew were the forests on shore and he felt sure he could make the promontory without failIt was high time, for another shell had exploded in the water, not very far, and he began to be tortured with thirst.The glow of the distant forest blazes, its thousand fold weird reflectionsupon the flood waves, the flood water that fell and dridd upon him, th the ill smelling smoke, the parching heat and drynesscof the air combined to make his throat burn and his brain ache.To drink the water of the flood was risking dangerous sickness.The sight of the forest so near at hand with many trees even risingout of water for a considerable distane almost made him sick with longing but the current had carried him past the point, and as the next reach of flood opened out, he beheld a sight that changed the nature of his thoughts, regardless of solid shot that every minute plunged close to the little craft.

Right in front of him, not half a mile awayl lool looming up in the darkness likesome hude monster with a sail on top he belf the raft under sail, or it seemed to be.He made sure of cuse, that the Glandelinians were using it in persuit, that he w sure would be taken, and though he was distressed for want of water, he decided he would drown himself before he allowed him self to be taken by these child murderers, andlong before he had com toa conclusion, surprise had then takenpossession of him, an and he could do nothing, but stare, gasp, and wonder. The raft as it appeared in the darkness wasu n under her main sail, and two jin jibs, and the beautiful white canvass shone in the glare like rose snow or golden silver." Whenthe boy first sighted her, all her sails were drawing, she was laying a course due almost nothwest and he presumed the Glandelinians on board were going down the water in search of the one who had ca a cast them adrift.Presently the raft began to slowly fetch more andmore to the westward, so that the boy finally thought they really had sighted him and were in chase in earnest.At last however she fell right into the "winds"eye" wasctaken dead aback, and stood there awhile helpless, with her sails shivering.

"Clumsy Glandelinian fools"he thought,"They must be all drunk."

Meanwhile the raft gradually fell off and filled again upon another tack, sailed swiftly for a minute orvso and brought up once more, dead in the winds eye.Again n and again to the further astonishment of the lad this was repeated.To and fro, up and down, north, south, east, and west,,, the raft sailed, by swo swoops and dashes, and at each unusual repeation ended as she had begun with idly flapping canvas.It now became plain to Jack that either nobody was on board, or no one had sense enough to know how to steer the raft, or it was left to go as it liked.,nd if so, where were the Glandelinian soldiers that had been on board?Either they had been caught under fire, from Gertrudes position, either the rebels were dead drunk, or had from fear of her being cast adrift in the flood had jumped into the water and deserted her, he thought, and perhaps if he could take the chances and get on board, hemight bring the vessel back to another safe spot, where those of his friends and Gertrude could regain it.

The current was bearing the boat and the raft southward at an equal rate and boty both were nowunder fire, and a shell landed in m the middle of the raft.He looked in the direction of the smoke and saw it was Gertrudes battery firing on the raft.He decided to get on at allrisks, run up a white flag and turn her round, but as for the latters sailing, and the way it was tossed by the shock of the explosion it was so wild and intermittent ,and she hung so long each time in "iron" that the raft certainly gained nothing, if she did not even lose.If he only dared to sit up and paddle, he made sure that he could overhaul her.Why not slacken ot stop firing by raising up a white handkerchief.Maybe Gertrude could see that, though of cuse the Glandelinians would not respect it.The scheme though risky had an air of adventure that inspired him beyond control, and the thought of the water breaker beside the raft doubled his growing coua courage.Up he got, but was welcomed despite his white flag by a explosion risinglike an eruption from the water, and recieved another white cloud of spray and dirt andmud, the boat was almost captized, but this time he stuck to hispurpose,and set himself with all his strength and caution to pa paddle after the unsteered raft.Bang came a cannon shot, another eruption arose in the water

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and the little boat shipped a sea and a shower of mud and spray so heavy thah t that the boy had to stop to bail, with his heart fluttering like a bird, but gradually he got into the way of the thing, and guideec the guided the boat onward with only now and then a blow upon her bows, and a dash of foam in his face.He was now gaining rapidly upon the boat or raft rather, he could see the brass rails glisten, and still no soul appeared upon its decks.He could not co choose but suppose she was deserted or the men had been killed on board, or they were dead drunk and if so he could easily make them prisoners,and tie them to the posts so they could do him no harm, and do what he choose with the raft.If no one could see hislittle white handkerchif, they could sure see the white flag on the mast.If firing then did not stop, he knew it was from the foe.

Now for some time the boat had been doing the worst thing for Jack,---- -----stand still, and both the boat, and the raftttt under fire.It is said to be hard for gunners to hit moving objects, especially when they are small, but standing still, that is another question.she headed nearly due southwest, yawing of course all the time.Eachvime she fell off, her sails partly filled,and these brought her in a moment right to the wind again. This seemd or was the worst thing that could have happened, for helpless as she looked in this situation, with the canvas cracking like cannon, and the blocks trn trundling and banging on the flooring of the raft, she still continued to run away from him, not only with the speed of the current running even against the wind but by the whole ammmount of her leeway, which was naturally great. But now at last Jack saw he had his chance. The breeeeze suddenly fell, at least for some minutes, very low, And the current gradually tr turning, her the raft revolved slowly round her centre, and at last presented her stern to Jack, with the row of tents within full view on her, with the middle tent still gaping open, and the lamp over the table still burning.The main sail hung drooped like a manner.ghe for that minute was stock still, but for thecureent.....

For the last little while Jack had even lost, but now he redoubled his efforts, and began once more to overhaul the chase.He now was not even a hundred yards from her when the wind came again in a clap, she filled from the port tack(jack on your port plesse) and was off again,, stooping, and skimming like a race horse.Jacks first impulse was one of despair, but his second was tward joy. Round she came till she was broadside on to him round till she had covered a half, and then te two thirds, and then three quarters of the distance that seperated him and the raft//. He could despi e despite the darkness see waves boiling white under her forefoot..and then of a sudden, the boy began to comprehend. He had scarce time to think ,-- scarce tim toact, to act and save himself for the raft waw bearing down on him. And he was on the summit of one flood swell, when the raft came stooping over the nest heading tward hislittle boat with fury.The boy sprang to his feet, and leaped, stamping the little boat under water.With one hand he managed to catch the jim boom,while his foot was lodged between the stay and the brace, and as he still clung there panting a dull blow told him that the raft had charged down upon the little boat and smashed it to bits,and that if in peril from enemies on board he was left without retreat on the huge raft.

He had scarce gained a position on the bowsprit, when a round shot from shore caused the jib to flap and fill upon the other"tack"with a report like a loud gun.something also hit the raft, with a crash, there was a tremendous explosion and the raft trembled to her keel under the reverse, but next moment from another sho t, the other sailscstill drawing,the jib flapped back again and hung idle.This had nearly tossed the boy off into the sea, and now he lost no time, crawled along the floor, and tuj tumbled headforemost on the planks.He now was on the lee side o of the row of tents on board, and the main sail, which was still drawing, concealing him from a dcertain portion of the other section and the former horse sties.Not a soul was to be seen.The planks covered covering over the logs like a true flooring had not been cleaned since its capture, and before the print of many foot of soldiers, and even to Jacks surprise ane empty bottle, broken by the neck tumbled to and froe like a living thing.Jack kicked it into the water.Suddenly the raft cane right into the wind.The jib behind the boy cracked aloud, the boom slammed too the whole raft gave a sickening heave, and a shudder, and at the samemoment the main boom xswung inboard, the sheet groaning in the blocks, and showed him the " lee after deck." There were the Glandelinian soldiers all right, twenty of them at different parts as stiff as handspikes, som with their arms stretched out like those of a crucifix, and

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one had his teeth showing through his openly open lips, their captian or some officer op propped against the railing or "bulwarks"his chin on his uniformed chest, his handslyingopen before him on the deck, his face as white, under its tan, as a tallow candle.whether they la/ in thatposition from drunkness or whether they were killed by shots from Gertrudes guns no one could say. For a while the radt because of glancing shots hitting it, for and aft kept bucking, and sliding and sidlinglike a vicious colt, the sails filling from the breeze, now onone tack, now on another and the boom swinging to and froe till the mast groaned aloud under the strain.Now and again too, there would come a cloud of spray hurled by a shot over the railing bulwark, and a heavy blow of the rafts front against the swell so much he v heavier wa weather was made of it by this great rigged raft than by the boys lopsided boat now gone to the bottom of the flood..At every jump of the raft one or so of the men or sometimes all would slip and t go to and fro, sometimes roll together in a heap, but---what was ghastly to behold neither their attitudes were anyway disturbed by this rough usage.At every jump too the captian appeared to still more sink into himself and settlie down upon the rafts deck his feet sliding ever the farther out, and the whole body canting tward the stern, so that his face became, little by little, hid from the boyscout, and at last he could see nothing beyond his ear and the frayed ringlet of one w whisker.

At the same time, the boy observed by the light of the lantren he observed around all of them splashes of dark blood upon the pm planks, and at first began to feel sure that they had all killed each other in their dr drunken fury, but on closer examination found by the looks of founds, they had been killed by the fire from shore of Gertrudes guns.While he was thus looking and wondering, in a calm moment, when the raft was still, he observed that the captian turned partly roun round, and with a loan low moan writhed himself back to the position in which the lad had first seen him. The moan which told of pain and deadly weakness, and the way in which his jaw hung open, at first went right to the boys heart.But when he remembered that he was a Glandelinians, and what the enemy did in carrying on the war, all pity left him.He walked aft till he reached the main mast.

"Come aboard you rascally man." the boy said ironically.

He rolled his eyes round heavily but he was too far gone to express alarm or surprise.All he could do was to utter a few words. "Christian dog fire on shore kill us. Brandy."

It however occured to the boy that there was no time to lose, and dodging the boom as it once more lurched acrossthe rafts deck, he slipped aft and went into one of the main Mess Tents. It was such a scene of confusion as anyone could hardly fancy.All the look fast places had been broken open in quest of something the Glandelinians had been k looking o for.The floor was thick with mud, where the glandelinians had no dubt sat down to consult after wading in the flood marshes near the shore.The interior of the tents of white canvass and beaded round with gilt bore a pattern of dirty hands, and the marks of shoes as it if the rebels had sat in chairs with their feet resting against the wall os the tent.dozens of empty milk bottles clinked together as well asob bravy bottles.One of Gertrudes record books lay open on the mess table, half of the written leaves gutted out, as the boy believed for the soldiers used them to light their cigars.In the midst of all this three lamps still cast a smoky glow ,obscure, and brown asumber.

The boy went to the supply tent, all the small barrels of brandy were gon h gone, and of the bottles a most surpringn umber had been drunk out and thrown ag away.Certainly the glandelinians who boarded the raft and probably scores of them could not have been sober for twenty four hours.yor- aging about, Jack finally found a bottle with some brandy left, which he decided to give to the Glandelinian captian, and for him elf himself he brought forth som buscuit, some pickled fruits, a great bunch of rasins and a big piece of cheese.With these he went acrosss the deck of the raft, put down hi his own stock behind a stall and well out of any ones reach, went forward to the north end and had a goood deep drink of water, and then afterwards but not till then gave the Glandelinian captian the brav brandy.He drank a gill before he took the bottle from his mouth.

"Thanks boy"he said"I sure needed som of that."

Jack had already sat down in his own corner, and began to eat.

"Are you much hurt!"the boy asked him coldly.

The Glandelinian soldier or captian rather, grunted, or rather again I might say barked.

"If a doctor was on board"he said,"I would be all right in a few minutes but I don't have no manner of luck h you see, and that's what the matter with us.You Christian dogs have us at your leashes.As for those of my comrades they are as good as dead, being killed by the fire from that hill over there"He

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added"indicating Gertrudesposition."They exposed themselves, and so did I the fool.Hang it, there comes another shell.And where might you come from Christian doggie?"

"Well"said Jack"For the first thing, "I'm a no dog, and in second uplace I have come on board to take possession of this raft, Mr Captian, and you'll please regard yourself as my prisoner untill further notice."

The glandelinian captian looked at the bou boy wickedly enough but did not say anything then.However some of the color had come back into his cheeks, though he still looked very sick and still continued to slip out and settle down as the raft banged about.It struck a wreckage floe of some size and shattered the whole into a flying eruption of splinters.

"By the by,"the boy continued"I can't have these Glandelinian colors Mr glandelinian prisoner"I'll run up a white flag or the friends ofmine will continue to fire andkill me and whether you say so or not, I'll strike your's and run up the white.Better that than the both of us k get killed."

And again dodging the boom, the boy ran to the color lines, handed down the cursed glandelinian flag,,chucked it overboard, and ran up a large big spread of white cloth for a flag.

"God save Abbisannia and win her cause."said the boy waving his cap,"And there's an end to Glandelinia."

The Glandelinian captian watched the boy keenly and slyly, his chin all the while on his breast.

"I belisve said the man at last"I reckon boyscout you will desire to get to shore now out of reach of my own comra comrades."

"I sure do andintend to do so."answered the boy.

"Well suppose we talk."

"Why yes"said Jack."With all my heart Mr Prisoner. S e speak on bo but no trick remember.I know you Glandelinians."

"These men, my comrades"he began nodding feebly at the twenty corpses these men intended to recover a plan stolen from Mylstze believing you had it or your people had it.Well they are all dead now, and who's to sail this raft I wonder.I do not see.I could give you a hint boy for you ain't that man after all.No look here, you give me food and drink, ty up my would like a good boy, and I'll tell you how to sail her, and that's a square deal I take it."

"You are wrong two ways"said Jack."I know how to sail it never fear, and I'm not going to land on shore in this e neighborhood and be under fire from your friends and mine too, the other by mit mistak e.I mean to remain right here till day break or get into some inlet, and beach her quietly there."

"To be sure that is a good intention."he cried."Why I ain't such an infer nal wicked Glandelinian after all.I can see what you mean can't I.I have tried my fling, and havelost, and it is you who made me a prisoner taking my weapons from me.Beach it in an inlet.Why I hav have no choice and I'll obey you.I(I'd help you sail the raft up to the christian lines so I would and not argue either."

Well, as it seemed to the boy scout Jack saunders, there was somecsense in this, and the boy believed all the Glandelinians were not bad. The two struck their bargain on the spot.In three minutes the boy had the raat raft sailing easily before the wind along the shore with good hopes of turning the northern point ere noon, and beating down again as far as the inlet indicated hoping the flood was not too high to beach her saftly.Then the boy lashed the tiller and went to his own chest where he got a shoft silk handkerchif.With this with his iad, the captian bound up the great blseding stab he had recieved in the tigh from a shell fragment, and after he had eaten a little, and had a swallow or two more of brav y, he began to pick up visibly, sat straighter up, spoke louder and clearer, and looked in every way another man.The breeze served them admirably.They skimmed before it, like a bird the trees on shore flashed by, and the view changed every minute.Soon they were neare nearing higher lands but low country every where seemed under water as far as the hills and soon they were beyond that again heading north for the high cliff and had turned the corner of the rocky wooded hills that comes again near Gertrudes position. The boy was greatly elated with his new command, and pleased with th e now cool weather and these different prospects of the coast.He now had plenty of water, and good things to eat.and he had nothing left him to desire but for the eyes of the Glandelinian prisoner as they followed the boy dr derisively about the raft, and the odd smile that appeared continually on his face.It was a smile that had in it somethi h something of both pain and weakness---a haggard old mans smile but there was beside that, a grin of derision, a shadow of treachery, in his expression as he craftily watched, and watched, and watched the boy at his work....

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tThe wind served the boy and prisoner to a certain desire, and hauled slight ly into the west,The raft could run so much easier from the southwest than othw otherwise, and it seemed as if the firing on shore had stopped, though some flash lights flashed again.Only however they had no power to anchor, and dared not beach her till they got to where the water coverss a level stretch of land, and not hilly dally, and therefore time hung on their hands. The Glandelinian captian told the boy how to lay the raft too, explaining he should work it just as a ship, and after a good many trials the boyscout finally succeeded.They however rammed another wreckage floe and had had trouble getting free of that.

"Boyscout"said the Glandelinian captian at length,with that same uncomfor table smile,"Here's twenty of my comrades lying in our way on board this raft.Suppose you was to heave or push them overboard.I ain't particular as a rule, and maybe I don't blame the Christian dogs for settling their hash, but I do not reckon they are goodlak to be left lying here till morning do you!"

"I'm not strong enough, and I don't like the job, and there they can remain lying for me."said the boy.

"This here has been an unlucky raft, this big raft boy"he went on blink ing."There's a great number of my comrades been killed in two battles with your gangs of boy and goil scouts, and their soldier escorts, a sight of soldiers of my side dead and gone since I entered the army.I never seen seen such dirty luk to our cause not I and whos's to blame?Not we I'm sure. There was Captian Obrien now, he too is dead,ain't he killed at Cedernine.Well now I'm no military scholar but you might be some day lad if you live to see this war through no matter whowins, you can read, write, and figure, and to put it straight do you take it as a dead Glan delinian soldier is dead for good ,and never see heaven, or does he be forgiven his sins and go there after a long, long, time."

"You can kill the body Mr Captian, but not the soul, you ought to know that already."the boy replied. "But where you fellows go when you die I know not as I know not your characters, though you do surely fight for a wicked cause.Many of you , millions now I am sure though are in another world, a good hot one too."

"Ah"said he,"Well that's unfortunate, appears as if fighting in this awful war was a waste of time, our kings fault no dubt.However hellish spirits do not reckon for so much boy, by what I've seen.I'll chance it with the spirits and the demons boys and fight them too.And now since you have spoken free nI'll take it as you are a kind good boy, like a christian of your side, if you will step over there in the other tent and get me---a well a good night.I can't think the name of it---well you get me a bottle of milk boy-- no more brandy, this stuff is s too strong for my head and I'm not used to it."

Now the hesitation of this glandelinian captian, seemed to be very unatural, and as for his notion of prefering milk to wine or brandy, the boy entirely doubted it.He felt sure the whole story was a pretext, and besides the boy knew full well, that Glandelinians are as treacherious as leopards.The glandelinian wanted him absolutrly to leave the floor of the raft----so much was plain, but wi but with whatpurpose he at first could not imagine at all, even though he had his suspicions.The eyes of the scoundrel never met the boys, in- deed they kept wandering to and fro, up and down now with a look to the sky now with a flitting glance upon the dead soldiers about him, and at the shore where the glandelinian batteries were known to be.

All the time he kept smiling, and putting his tongueouid in themost guilty and embrassed manner so that even a child could have suspected that the Glandelinian captian was bet bent on some deception.Jack was prompt with his his answer however, for he saw where his own advantage lay, and that with a felo fellow so dreadfully wicked, and yet densely stupid he could easily conceal his suspicions to the end.

"Some milk!"said Jack, pretending to be astonished."I thought you Glandelinians love wine and brandy, white crvred.But are you sure you want milk!"

"Well I reckon I said I want milk." he replied in a surly tone"All of us Glandelinians do not drink brandy to an excess, andmilk is the blessed same thing to me----so its fresh, cold, andplenty of it, so what's the odds? Want mevto e be drunk so you can rob me eh, you dirty christian dog.I know you all through, and through.Get milk or I'll get you."

"All right." the boy answered."I'll bring you what I find.But if there isn't any you'll have to drink water....".

With tha t ,ack went into the main supply or quartermaster tent, making all the noise he could, then he slipped off his sh e shoes, ran quietly along the railing, mounted a forcastle ladder as it was callled on the raft, and popped his head out between the rinning.The boy knew he would not expect to be seen there by the Glandelinian officer, yet the lad took every precaution possible, and certainly the worst of his suspicions proved to be true.Slowly but surely the Glandelinian rose to a newposition, seemingly in the dark to the boy, on his hands and kneess,, and the boy heard him groan which proved that as the sco ndrel moved his leg hurt him badly,, yet it was at a good rattling rate that hemanaged to trail himself acrosss the floocor of the radt raft.He reached a tent in about a halfminute, andpicked out of a half emptied sack of po potatoes a long knife about eighteen in h inches long, discolored to the hilt with blood.He looked upon it for a moment thrusting forth hisunder jaw,, tried the point upon his hand carefully and then hastily concealing it in the bosom of his belt jacket, looked around cautiously, and then trundled back again once more into his old place on the north side of the raft nearest his dead companions. This was all that the boyscout required to know.He observed that after all the Glandelinian captian could move around, he was now armed, secretly, as he might believe, and if he had been at so much twuble to get rid of Jack, it was plain that he was going to be a victim of murder.what the rascally fool was going to do afterwards, Jack didn't know, whether he would try to crawl right across the shore or whether he would try to reach his comrades was more than the boy could say, but he felt sure the rascal was determined to gain his freedom by treachery..Yet the boy felt positively sure that on one condition he could trust the scoundrel, and that was that the interest of both seemed to be at one point, and that was in the disposition of the huge raft.We They both desired to have her slightly stranded safe enough, in a sheltered fir placeout of range of fire and so that when the time came, she could be got off again with as little work, and peril asmight be, and untill that was done, and also as long as he did not a argue with the man the boy considered that his life would certainly be spared.When they landed the raft, to avoid such disaster, the boy had decided to grant the rebel officer his liberty. While the lad was thus turning the business over in his mind, he had not been idle.He had stolen back to the main supply tent, slipped his shoes on once more, and laid his hand at random on bottles filled withmilk,and now with this for an excusemade his reappearance acrosss the floocor of the raft.The Glandelinian pri prisoner lay as the boy had lert left him, all fallen together in a bundle, and with his eye lids lowered, asif he were too weak to even bear the darkness broken by the glare of forest fires.He look ed up however when the boy approached, , knocked off the neck of the bottle and drank the whole qua t quart hardly without stopping.Then he lay quiet for a little while, and then pulling out a long square piece of chewing tobacc, begged the boyscout to cut off apiece for him.

"Cut me apiece of that." said the officer,"for I haven't no knife, and hardly strength enough if I had.A boy, boy, I believe I have missed my former life.Cut me a good piece,as it may likely be the last, lad, for I am on the way to join my comrades here, and no mistake."

"Well"said Jack,"I'll cut you some tobacco, but if I was you, and thought I was going to die so sure, I would repent of my sins, and start saying my prayers, and be like a christian ."

"There you christian dogs go again." he growled."And why should I do that? Now you tell me why!"

"Why!"cried the boy."A little awhile ago you were asking me about the future life.In fighting for Glandelinia you h ve broken your trust with God, you have lived in sin and wickedness, and savage cruet cruelty, and l ies and blood of innocent children , there are soldiers about you of the same cause who have been killed by fire on shore, and where are their souls?God only knows, and you ask me why.For God's mercy and forgiveness, Mr Captian, that's why."

The boy spoke with a little heat indeed, thinking of the bloody knife he had hidden in his belt, and designed in his ill thoughts to start an argument with the lad, to find excuse for killing him.He for his part took a great draught of wine which he still had,and spoke with the most unusual solemnity.

"For thirty years or more."said he"I've been in the army, and seen good and bad times, better or worse for us in this war now, provisio provisions running out, battles and floods and great fires raging,and what not and your armiesputting us down on ourknees and toli the world we are winning, and we are not.Well now I tell you, I never seen good come of goodness yet.Him or

they that strikes first wins, is the motto, them is my views--amen so be it, and your armies strike first.We have a right to think what is best, and at Hell I go, well so be it.And now boy you look here,"he suddenly added as his tone of voice changed,"We have had ohe enough of this fooling.The current of this flood has made good enough by now.You just take my orders, boyscout, and we'll beach this darn raft and be done with it, and then I want my liberty or I'll kill you to get it,"and he suddenly revealed to the boy the long bloody knife."

All t told, they had scarce two miles to run the raft, but because of two perils the navigation was extremely delicate,one because of being exposed to shell and rifle fire on shore, the other because the entrance to the new beah beaching point was not only narrow and shac shoal but lay east and west so that the big raft must be nicely handled to be got in without disaster.However the boyscout turned out as good as a prompt subaltern,and he was sure that the Glandelinian prisoner was a very good pi piolet pilot, for both he and the boy went about and about, and dodged in shaving the shore banks,avoiding the rougher stret h stretches of the flood with a certain ity and a neatness that were a pleasure to behold.Scarcely had they passed some heads of land when they came close to the cliff which Gertrude had des igin ated to Jean.The shores here were as thickly wooded as those of the m i main cove but the space was longer and narrower, and more like the estuary of a river.Right before them, at the southern end they saw the flooded wreck of some small country town or villiage seemingly in the last stages of dilapidation.It had been a great and beautiful town, but had lain so long now exposed to the ravages of the dreadful flood, that half the houses were badly des y destroyed.It was a sad sight but it showed the boy and Glandelinian, that the region apparently was calm and safe.

"N ow"said the captian"Look there, there's a good place for us to partly beach the raft in.Fine flat sand, never a catspaw trees all around it, and we can avoid the destroyed town."

"And once beached, and I allow you your freedom, and I have to go it alone,"The boy inquired,"How shall I get her off again."

"Why so." he replied with a smile, now more friendly than usual"You take a long line ashore, there on the other side through the low flood water ,take a turn about one of them big oaks standing out of water bring it back, take a turn around the capstan, and l ie to for a wide.Come high wind, even a keel can take a pull upon the linr l line, and off she comes as sweet as natu nature.and now boy you stand by.We are near the bit now,and the raft's too much way on her.Starbo starboard a little,---so steady-starboard---larboard, a little---- steady, steady."

So he issued his commands,which the boy breathlessly obeyed, till a all of a sudden he cried like a sailor"Now my hearty, luff"And the boy put the heal helm hard up, and the raft, swung round, rapidly and ran stem on for the low wooded shore.The excitement of these last manoeuvers h d had some what interfered with the watch, the boy had formely kept, sharply enough for any danger that may threaten him.Even then he was at still so much interested, waiting for the huge raft to touch, that he had f quite forgot the perils that hung over him, and stood craining over the starboard raic rail bulwarks and watching the ripples spreading wide before the rafts frontal edge.The boymight have fallen without even a struggle for his very life, had not a sudden disquitude not only seized upon him, but a shout or yell followed by a cry"Look out Keed" made him turn his head. Perhaps too the boy had heard a creak or seen his shadow by the fire light and light of the lantren moving with the tail of his eye, or before the shout it was an instinct like a cats, but sure enough when he looked a round, there was a most terrible hedious man all dripping wet, wild eyed, foaming at the mouth, and now screaming something terrible a already half way tward the boy with a long curving knife in his hand(It was the same maniac who tried to kill Jean.

"For Neptunes sake, keed run jump into the water"cried the Glande linian captian, as he hurled his own big knife at the insane being but missed."He'll kill you sure.He's crazy."

The insane man and the boy together cried out aloud when their eyes met but while the cry of the boy was the shrill shout of terror his was a roar of fury like a charging bull. At the same instant he threw himself forward but the bow leaped sideways tward the railing.As he did so he let go of the tiller which sprang sharply to leeward, and this saved his life for it struck the raving madman across the chest, and knocked him down, for the moment.The Glandelinian sprang forward to hold him down, but he rose to

hisfeet and knocked him down.However before the madman could recover, the boy was safe out of the corner hwre he had him trapped, with all the flooring of the decks o to dodge about or the tents to dodge in n andout of if possible.

"Run to the main mast, shot him, shoot him."cried the Glandelinian, who picked up a block of wood and threw it at the madman hitting him in the back of the head but not stopping him.However just forward of the main mast the boy stopped, drew apistol from his pocket, took a cool aim though he had already turned and once more was coming directly after the boy, and drew the trigger. The hammer fell but there did not follow a report or flash, the primming was useless with flood water.Jack cursed himself for his neglect.Whay had he not, long before, reprimed, and reloadedvhis only weapons?Then he should not have been as now a mere fleeing sheep before this dangerous insane man.

The Glandelinian officer again threw something at him, and it struck him in the leg, knocking him down, but he again got up, and wounded as he was it was wonderful to see how fast he could move, his grizzled hair tumbling over his face, and his face as red as a red flag with his haste and fury.The boy had no time to try his other pistol, nor indeed much inclination for he was sure it would would be useless.One thing Jack saw plainly, he must not simply retreat before him or he would speedily hold him, boxed into the or into one of the tents.Once so caught,and nine inches of the long knife would be driven into him.The boy placed his palm against the main mast,which was very big round,and waited every nerve upon the stretch.

Seeing that the boy meant to dodge(though in his crazed mind the child looked like a Glandelinian soldier to him) the insane man also paused, and a moment ot two passed in feints on his part, all the while raving about the loss of his home wife and children, and calling the boy such names as dirty Glandelinian skunk and so forth, and there was corresponding movements on the part of the boy though he remained silent.It was a game, such a game as Jack had often played with some of his girlscout friends and boys too, but never before the reader may be sure, with such a wildly beating heart as now.Still as any one man any it could have been a boys game, and he thought, felt sure he could hold his own against the madman at it, against a raving human beast with a wounded leg, and bleeding head, with at both pleaces the Glandelinian had thrown something at him.Indeed the boys courage had begun to rise so high, that for a moment he allowed himself a few darting thoughts of what would be the end of the affair, and while he saw certainly that he could spin it out for a long long time, he saw no hope of his ever making any escape.Well, while things stood thus,, and the frightful faced man raved on, foaming at the mouth, suddenly the raft, struck, staggered, ground for an instance instant in the sand and mud, and then swift as a blow canted over to the port side, till the flooring or deck stood at an angle of sixty five degrees, and a great spray of water splashed over the whole raft. The boy and two men were cap sized in a second, and the threee of them rolled together into the corner of the railing, the dead man on board tumbling stiffly after them.So near were they, indeed that the boys head came against the Glandelinian captians own head with a crack that made the boys teeth rattle and made him see a million stars..Blow and all, the boy was the first afoot again, for the captian,and the madman were involved together in a terrific struggle.The sudden canting of the raft had made the flooring no place to run on, the boy had to find som new way of escape and that upon the instant for his foe was worsted the Glandelinian, and was almost touching the lad having risen to hi his feet.The Glandelinian drose and tried to strike him down with a long pole but missed and hitting the floor broke it into three pieces.Hearing like a lion the insane madman sprang for the Glandelinian intending to strike him down with the knife.

The captian picked up a piece of iron and tried to ward him off by fein feints of his own, and quick as thought the boy, taking advantage of this sprang into the mizzen shr u shrouds,vrattled up hand over hand, and did not draw a breath till he was seated on the crossss trees. The boy had both been saved by being prompt and by the interference of the Glandelinian, the insane man flung the knife but it had struck only half a foot below him as he persued himupward flight, and having knocked the captian down with a lift fisted uppercut there stood the man madman with his foaming mouth open, and his face upturned to the boys, a pa perfect statue of surpr surprise and disappointment.

Now that the boy had a moment to himself, and the dazed Glandelinian was slowly getting to his feet, spitting out a couple of teeth the boy lost no time in changing the cartridges of his pistols, and then havingone ready for service, and to make assurance doubly sure, he proceeded to draw the load

of the other, and recharge it afresh from the beginning.The boy's new trick struck the madman as strange, he began to see the "dice"going against him, and after a long obvious hesitation he also hauled himself heavily into the shrouds, and with the long knife in his teeth began slowly and painfully to mount.It surely cost him no end of time and groans to haul his wounded leg behind him, his head was red with blood, and the boy had quietly finished his arrangements before the madman was more than one third the way up.Then with a pistol in either hand, the boyscout addressed him.

"One more step Mr man"said the lad,"And I'll blow your brains out."He did not stop, and the boy could see that by the working of his face that mad as he was he was trying to think, and the processxwas so slow and laborious th that in his new found securiaty the boy laughed aloud.At last with a swallow or two he spoke his face still wearing the same expression of extreme perplexity.In order to speak he had to take the dagger from his mouth but in all else he remained unmoved.

"Mr Glandelinian skunk"said the madman"I reckon you think you're in heaven up there, but only good girls like me get to heaven.I'd have had you but for that there lurch of this boat or raft, but girls like me don't have no luck not me, and as you Glandelinians are responsible for the loss of my w husband and home and children, I reckon I'll have to strike from here, which comes hard, you see for a master girl to a Glandel n Glandelinian fool like you up in that pint tree."

The boy was drinking in his words and smiling away, probably as con ceited as a cock upon a wall, when all in a breath back went the mad mans ri right hand over his shoulder.Something sang like an arrow through the air, the boy felt a blow and then a sudden sharp pang, and there he was pinned by the shoulder to the mast.In the horrid pain and surprise of the moment, the madman leaped into the water, and at the same time the boys two pistols went off, and both escapedout of his hands and fell into the water.The madman had plunged headfirst into the water, and swam across disappearing in the darkness.The Glandelinian c p captian now was too injured from the attack of the madman upon him too to get to his feet again. Owing to the cant of the ernormous raft, the mast hung far out over the water, the raft resting on a sort of slope, and from his perch on the cross trees, the boyscout had nothing below him but the surface of the flood.The madman who was not sofar up was inconsequence nearer to the edge of the raft and jumped between the bow and the edge of the raft.He rose to the surface and in the light of the lantren was seen to swiftly swimashore.As the light of the lantren reached even shore the boy could see him finally disappear among the trees.But he was gone though beyond where he had design ed the boys slaughter.Jack was no sooner certain of this, than he began to suddenly feel sick, faint and terrified.And the hot blood from his wound was running over his bak back and chest.The long knife where it had fas tened his shoulder to the mast seemed to burn like a red hot iron, yet it was not so much that the real sufferings distressed him, for these indeed it seemed to the boyscout he could bear without a murmur, it was the horror he had upon his mind of falling from the cross trees into the foaming water of the flood, and now a a jam of debris was passing.The boy therefore desperately clung with both hands till his finger nails ached, and he shut his eyes as if to cover up the peril.Gradually his mind came back again, himpulses quieted down to a more natural beat, and he was once more his h ownself.First he thought to dr draw forth the long knife, but either it was sticking too tight in his shoulder, or the boys nerve failed him, and he gave up with a violent shudder.Oddly enough that very shudder must have done the business.The knife in fact had come the nearest in the world to missing the boyscout altogether it held him by a merepich pinch of skin, and this th the shudder tere away.Of course the blood then ran down the faster, but the boy was free again, and only tacked to the mast by his shirt.

He broke through the shirt with a sudden jerk, and then slowly regained the deck by the starb starboard shrouds.The Glandelinian captian was missing. Yet for nothing in the world would the boy again dare to venture, shaken as he was upon the overhanging port shrouds from which the madman had so lately first followed up a little and then jumped off to swim away.

Jack went into the Kit tent,and did what he could for his wound.It pained him considerably, and bled freely for a time, but it was not deep nor at all dangerous, and it did not even greatly gall the lad when he tried to use his arm.Then the boy looked around him, noticed the fire glow increasing and looking at his wrist watch saw it was just about one oclock.The raft was now in a sense in the possession of the boy scout, and therefore he began to think of trying to clear it of its dead crew---by pushing each body if possible through the openings under the lower section of the railing.....

They had all pitched, against the railing, in a sort of row where they lay like horrible dead creatures of another world in that dar n darkness, life sized indeed but how different from lifes color, and in that position, and because the under opening of the rail was somewhat high or over a foot, the boy could easily have his way with the bodies, and as the habit of tragical adventures, and the expriences of war had worn off all his terror for so many dead, the boy shoved each man through and overboard. Each man went in with a sounding plunge. In fifteen minutes he was finished with the last one. He was now alone upon the huge raft the water of the flood seemed to be rising again. The glare of fires beyond the horizon was as red as a setting sunset. A stronger southwest wind had sprung up and though it was well warded off by the cliff with the two strange forested hills on the southeast, the idle sails began to rattle to and fro. The boy began to see a danger to the raft. The jibs he speedily doused and brought tumbling o to the rafts deck, but the main sail was a harddder matter. Of course when the raft partly canted so in a slantwise mannerthe boom had swung outboard and the cap of it an d a foot or two of sail hung even under water. The boy thought this made it still even more dangerous, yet the strain was so tremendously heavy that the boy half feared to meddle. At last he dared to climb the main mast again, drew out from it the long knife, went down, and finally cut the halyards. The peak dropped instantly, a great belly of loose canvas floated broad upon the water, and since pull as the boy liked, he could not budge the down hall, that was the extent of what he could accomplish. For the rest, the raft had to trust to luck just n like Jack had to. By this time the gow began to die down a little the region fell into blackness again, the lay last rays of the light falling molten iron red like through a glade of the wood, ad shining bright as a sun on the mantle of the wrecked town. The air began to grow cooler, the water was rapidly fleeting southwestward, and as it was rising the raft began to rise more upright too. The boy scrambled forward and looked over. It seemed shallow enough, and holding the cut hawser in both hands for a last security, he let himself drop softly overboard. The water scarcely reached his tigh thighs, the ground was firm and covered with ripple marks, and he waded ashore in great spirits, but now feeling somewhat sleepy, but leaving the raft where it was with the main sail trailing wide upon the surface of the bay. About the same time the glow disappeared behind a black cloud of smoke, and the breeze whistled low in the darkness, among the tossing pines.

At least, and at last, he was off the flood nor had Jack returned thence empty handed. There lay the raft clear at last from the Glandolinians, and ready for Angeline Richee, and the others to board and get to outward bounds again. Jack had nothing nearer his fancy than to get back to where he left the force under Angeline Richee and boast of his achievements. Possibly he might run into a party of the enemy, but he hoped not, and also for Angelines questioning the recapture of the raft was a clenching answer, and he hoped that Angeline Richee would confess he had lost no time.

So thinking and in famous spirits the boy began to set his face hoxward for Angelines command and all her companions. He remembered the proper pathway well and bent his curse in that direction that he might pass without meeting with any of the foe. Here the wood was pretty open, and keeping along the lower spurs the boy had soon reached the pathway he had left when coming to the raft and not long after he waded to the midcalf across a small water course. This brought him him near to where he had recently encountered a Glandelinian force on his way up to reinforce Angeline Richee, and he now walked more circumspotly keeping an eye on every side. The darkness had come deeper but as he came to an open the far distant cliff on which Gertrude was the book looked and became aware of a new wavering glow against the sky where as he judged the roaring forest fire was moving in a new direction. And yet he wondered, in his heart, that Gertrude should with her troop remain in such a precarious position. Gradually the night fell bkac blacker. it was all the boy could do to guide himself even roughly toward his destination the flood behind him loomed faint and fainter, there were no stars in the sky and in the low ground where the boy wandered slowly and even carefully he never theless kept tripping among bushes, and rolling into sandypits. Suddenly a kind of brightness fell about him. He looked up, a stronger glow of forest fires seemed to rise behind the summit of some long high far distant hill. With this to help him the boy passed rapidly over what remained to him of his journey, and sometimes walking, sometimes running impatiently drew near to the spot. Yet as he began to thread the grove that lies before it he was not so thoughtless that he slacked his pace and went a trifle warily.

It would haveindeed been a verypoor end of his ad e adventures to get shot down by h s his own part y by mistake. The distant glow was rising higher and

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higher its strange red reflection began to fall here and there in masses through the more open districts of the wood, and right in front of the boy the glow even appeared again like a red sunset among the trees. It was red and bright, and now and agai again it was a little darkened-- as if it were the other side of the world a smouldering. For the life of him Jack could not think what it might be. Was the forest fire coming? At last he came right down upon the borders of a clearing. The western end was already steeped in thw glow, the rest, and the hills themselves still lay in black shadows, chequered with long red streaks of flickering light. The scene was if an immense molten planet was changing place with the earth on that distant location and shed upon the sky a steady red reverberation contrasted strongly with the paleness of still further distant lights. There was not a soul stirring nor a sound beside the noise of the breeze. Jack stopped with much wonder in his heart, and perhaps a little terror also. It had not been his way to risk going near big fires, nay all his followers were indeed by Angelines orders somewhat careful of their direction of travel, and he began to fear that something had gone wrong while he was absent. He stole rounf by the eastern end, keeping close in shadow, and at a most convenient l place, where the darkness was thickest, crossed the road. To make assurance surer, the boy got upon his hands andknees, and crawled slowly without a sound toward a large pine tree. As he drew nearer, his heart was suddenly and greatly lightened. He heard the whisperings of boys and girls not even two feet away. Even such a thing as the sea cry of the watch, that beautiful "Alls well never fell more reassuringly upon his ear. In the meantime there was no doubt of one thing, they kept a good strick watch. If the enemy had been creeping upon them, not a Glandelinian soldier would see daybreak. So the lad paused. He had to be careful. The lad stood up behind a tree. All was dark, he saw no one he could not distinguish nothing by the eye. As for souds sounds there was the steady wh s whispers, and a small occassional noise, a flickering or packing that the boy in no way could account for. With his arms before him the boy walked steadily on. The boy thought with a silent chuckle that he should lie down somewhere, and enjoy their faces, when they sawchim in the morning, but that wouldn't be doing the work ensigned to him. They must be on the raft by morning if possible. His foot struck something yeilding--it was a sleepers leg, but it did not move. Then Jack called;

"Oh Miss Angeline Richee." for he believed it was she keeping better watch than any one else. The lad had no time to recover his voice. At his sharp clipping tone, the sleepers awoke and many sprang up, and the voice of Angeline Richee cried;

"Is that you Jack saunders?"

"Yes Angeline. I have accomplished my mission."

"Come forthJack" she said and he did.

"Bring a torch, Dick" said Angeline; when he was assuredly among his own comrades again. And one of the boys pr s presently lighted a torch. Theyred glare of the torch lightingsp thisportion of the woods, showed the boys beldfs of having reached his friends confirmed. The boy and girlscouts of Angeline Richees regiments were in possession of even the enemys camp and stores, there was even casks of cognacs, there were prok and bread, as ofee and what td tenfold increased his surprise, not a sign of any Glandelinian soldier, not even a prisoner. He could judge as far as possible that Angeline Richee during his absence had attacked the enemy herself and suddenly surprising them had captured the, td tent and provisions, and even ammunition and many kinds of weapons, sixteen flags, and a Glandelin ian generalsuniform and coat besides his sword, and two cases of jw jewelry. His heart smoke smote him sorely that he had not been there to participate with them.

There were six of the boygi scout officers, all told near him. Five of them were on their feet. The sixth h had only risenup on his elbow, he was deadly pale, and the blood stained bandage round his head told that he recently been wounded, and still more recently dressed. Angeline Richee had com feward, and she Jack thought looked somewhat o paler and more stern than he was used to seeing her. she stillwore her fine purple coat and red dressss in which she had alwaysuniformed herself, but it seemed biterly the worst for wear daubed with clay, and torn with the sharp briairs of the wood.

"So" said she. "here's our friend Jack saunders backwith us again, and so soon. Dropped in like, and through the rest of the enemys lines. Well come boy Ittmat I take that as a sort of mircale.."

And thereup on she sat down upon a stump.

"Give me a loan of your flash light, pick"said the girl leader,"And then when she had turned it on, and the torch hwex torch was put out"she said again"Out with our camp fire, and you boys and girls who are awake, bring yourselves to ---you do not now need to stand up g-w gawking at Jack-he'll exxu excuse you.And so Jack dear--here you are back again,and quite a pleasant surprise for your good friends here.I see you were smart and clever when first I set my eyes on you, even if you were a little careless at times, but this here gets away from me olean it does.I do not need to ask you how you succeeded, for I saw it all with my very eyes, from my night field glasses.I saw you even repulse a man who attacked you."

To all this the boy as well may be supposed, he was too surprised to even make answer.He had stood with his back against a tree, and he stood there looking Angeline Richee in the face, pluckilyenough, to all outward appearance, but as he knew all were surrounded by the foe, with black despair in his heart.Angeline Richee felt good and sleepy but she remained composed and then ran on again.

"Now you see Jack ,as you are now back again,I'll give you a piece of my mind.I've always liked you,even when you did some careless things,I have for a lad of your courage courage and spirit.Ever since I knew you at Emperor Vivians army I always wanted you to join my own squadrons and take your share and do for me as you did for others, and now my friend you have done so. Gertrude Angeline is a fine girlscout as I'll own up to any day, stiff on discipline, but she'll hear my plea and get you a better commission for this. Duty, is duty"she says, and right she is, and I'll do what I can for you.Just how you kept clear of the Glandelinians allaround you as you went for the raft I cannot comprehend.I was afraid you would n ever make it. The doctors himself is dead having been shot, and we have to have Mary Glorinia beour girlscout doctor as far as she is able.The short andlong of the whole story is about here Jack, we can't I'm afraid get through the foe lines below us for they won't let us, will oppose us too strongly,and without Gertrude sending the men to our aid we'll be locked up here for weeks.But she sent me a message by wireless that help is coming.She repulsed her attackers and am able to bring me plenty of aid."

So far so good.Most of his friends then were still alive,and though from what he had of his own experiences he believed the statement of Angeline, that the Glandelinians were too strong in numbers topush through the woods to the cove, and that they were incensed at the child scouts for their three victorious conflicts without much loss, and heavy loss to the Glandelinians, Jack was more relieved than distressed by what he heard.What Gertrude ocould not do, no general could either.

"I don't say nothing as to how you escaped being in the han ds of so wily a foe." continued Angeline Richee smiling sweetly upon him,"Though here you are, and you have made far better success than I suppose.I know even where you beached the raft.You have shown that you liked the service of us girl and boyscout regiments, and though you did have little careless ways, you sure break records for a acting boyscout.If you like to have a higher commission you'll sign this by help of my flashlight, and if you don't Jack why you are free to answer no----free to answer Jack,and if fairer can be said by me or any of my followers then all right."

"Am I to get a higher commission just for that little trick on the foe?" the boy asked, surprised indeed.Through all this talk he was nevertheless made to feel the threat of death that overhan overhung him and all the rest in this region, either from the foe or fires, and his cheeks burned and his heart beat painfully in his breast,and he wondered how she could be so cool and seemingly without even nerves in such a perilous perilous situation.

"My lad"said Angeline"No one is pressing you.Take your time.Non e of us won't hurry you, time goes so pleasant inour good company, you see."

"Well"said Jack"If I'm to choose, I declare I have t a right to know what position we are in, why we are cornered here by the foe,and how is Gertrude going to send us aid.That seems impossible."

"What's impossible"Repeated Dolores Mic-Hollester, who stood beside Angeline. "You accomplished harder than she'll attempt and you say its impossible.Ah he'd be a lucky one who would know where we are, and how we are cornered."

"But its dangerous to stay here.We should bemoving long ago."said another a boyscout.

"You'll perhaps wait till you are spoken to , my friend."cried Angeline Richee re tre truculently."And then in her first gracious tones, she replied to Jack.Yeste- last night when you was gone Jack, about two minutes ago some wounded Glandelinian officer, a captian I presume approached me with a glaf of truce.Said he to me"Captian girlscout, my regiment is sold out, hoodwinked.I helped the boy beach the raft, and we were attacked by a mut As the boy was good to me even though t was a foe, I took his part.

When I noticed the soldiers of my side observe the disappearance of the raft I never seen a pack of fools look fisheir. He then wanted to bargian with me, on a proposition, of handing over to us this small camp and provisions as a token of surrender for his kindness bto you, and your Helping him when he was the lone survivior of all his comrades on the raft.We bargained him, and I, and we gave him his p freedom,and here we are.stores, brandy, camp with tents and in a manner the whole blessed Raft from cross trees to keelson. As for the Glandelinian Hordes below us he warned us of their numbers and then pledged that He would abandon the cause and go back home.And lest you take it into your head dear Jack"she went on, that you was included in the treaty, here's the last word he said"Have you a boyscout captian by the name of Jack .I said yes, and he answered"He'll find his way back here." These were his words

"Is that all?"The boy asked.

"Well it's all that I could tell, my friend."returned the girlscout.

"And now am I to choose?".

"And now you are to chose if you like."said Angeline Richeee.

"Well said Jack,"I was not such a fool after all, but when I did my work I knew prety well what I had to lookout for.When I went forth as you asked me, I thought to myself, let the worst come for the worst, it's little I care, as long as my countrys cause is at stake.I've seen to many countless thousands die since I came into the army as a boyscout.But there's a thing or two I have to tell you Angeline."he said, and by this time the boy was quite ex excited,"and the first is this;;;"Why cannot we get through the enemys lines, and give Gertrude a sp surprise.You Miss Richee are a far better girlscout than she is, and both you and she know it,that's why she wants you with herall the time. Here the enemy is, who are down here, in a bad way, raft lost to them, after they had captured captured it, and probably over 2 our thousand men lost as your hands and mine, provisions lost,their whole business gone to wreck, and if you want to know who did it, ---well it was you and I,and as for the raft, it was I who cut the cable as you suggested, and it was you I found out who killed the twenty men on her decks with your long range rifle fire, and it was I who brought her where the Glandelinians will never see her more, notone of them.The laugh's on our side Miss Richee, we've had the very top of this business from the first, we need to fear the dastardly foes of our Lord no more than a fly.The Glandelinians can fight us kill us off if they tried, but one thing I'll say, and no more, we can get through if we make a desperate effort of it.We can do it."

The boy stopped, for he was out of breath,and to his wonder, not one of them moved but all sat staring at him like as many sheep.and while they were still staring, the boy broke out again,,

"And now Miss Richee"he said "I believe and know you're the best girlscout of them all, and if things go to the worst at our attempt, I'll take it kind of you, to also let Gertrude Angeline know the way I took it.Can can outwit the foe and play them the dirtest trick ever soldier or general played on them yet, and inflict on them the heaviest losses possible forour own that we suffered recently."

"I'll bear it in mind"said Angeline,with an assent so curious that the boy could not for the life onof him decide whether she were laughing at his request, or had been favorably affected by his courage.

"I'llput one to that"cried Dolores."It was him that did up general Manleys headquarters once."

"Well and see here."added Angeline Richee."I'll put another thing to that, for it was this same boy that faked that chart orplans from Manley why two spies were trying to obtain the original.First and last we've by his help succeeded in putting things over on the Glandelinians very good."

"Then here goes."said one of the boy scout leaders."We'll We'll start the march."

And he sprang up, drawing his sabre and was about to give a command.

"Wait a minute there."cried Angeline Richee."Who are you Thomas Menders hereMaybe you thought you was a general in chief in chief or something.By heaven if you act that foolish and reckless I'll teach you better.I gave no command to march.Cross me and you'll go home as a simple boy and not a scout I may be a girl but there's never a boy nor a soldier, nor a girlscout looked me between the eyes and disregarded my commands, and seen further scouting commissions afterwards, Thomas and you know that."

The boy scout captian pasued, aghast, buta hourse murmur rose from the others.

"Tons right"cried one."It's dangerous to remain here Angeline."

"We've remained here long enough for one a"added another."I'll be hanged if I'll remain here any longer.See the fire is coming nearer."

"Did any of you foolish boys want to go it alone then."screamed Angeline, bending far forward from hervosition on the stump."Go if you like if you are in a hurry, but you are not dump dumb I believe.Those that do not want to wait go now if you like I won't stop you.I have been guardi an of many persons in my day, I allow I know this mo country,you do not.I know the way through here, I could lose every one of you, and you'd never get out of these woods.If you are so impatient as that, why you may go right now and see if you can get through.I'll move when I'm ready.I do not make haste and run chances of dire dinaster.Take a march off him that dares, and I'll plug a bullet into him and all before he can even think."

Not a boy or girl stirred, not a man answered.

"That's your sort now is it?" she added putting out her flash light. "Well you are good boys and girls at that but you do foolish things. Perhaps you cannot seem to understand the enemy cannot be trifled with.They are a thousand times more dangerous to us kids than they are to the very soldiers.Not much worth to fight them hand to hand you ain't being too small. I'm head girlscout captian here by promotion.I'm captian here because the Vivian Girls gave the commission to me, and because I'm the best guide in all the country by a long run, and no one can dispute it.You cannot get through the enemy without my own planning, then by thunder you'll obey; and you know it.I like that boy Jack too, I've never seen a better boy than that. He's more than any pair of rats of those clandelinians trying to cut us off from Gertrudes party;and what I say is this, he's to be also your captain next to me in command; and again what I say is this; let me see him or her that'll not obey him,-that's what I say, and he or she will packup grip remove uniforms and go back home in short order with disgraceful discharge papers in possession.I demand obedience."

There was a long pause after this.Jack still stood straight up against the tree, his heart still going like a sledge hammer but with a ray of hope now coming in his bosom.Angeline Richee leaned back against another tree, her arms crossed, as calm as though she had been in ou church, yet her eye kept wandering furtively, and she kept the tail of it on her reckless but good righteous followers, who came to comprehend that she was right.They on their part drew gradually together tward a smallclump of trees, and the low hiss of their whispering sounded in the boys ear, continuously like a stream. One after another they would then look up, and the red light of the torch would fall for a second on their nervous faces, but it was not tward the boy; it was tward Angeline, that they turned their eyes.

"You seem to have very much to speak of."remarked Angeline Richee."Pipe up, and let me hear it."

"Begging your pardon Miss Richee "returned one of the girls;"You are pretty justified with the rules, maybe you'll kindly keep an eye upon the rest. We'll have to obey you, but the whole force is dissatisfied; we all of us don't likevthis position we are in, we all have our rights like other girl and boy scouts; I'll make so free as that and by your own rules; that we should be talking together, since you did not give any command of "Attention." Begging your pardon, Miss Richee acknowledging you to be head captian; but we claim our right, but ask you to please hasten and get us out of here.We are in hell as it is."

And with an elaborate salute, this girlscout, a long, homely looking blue eyed miss of fifteen, stepped coolly to her respective place.One after the other the rest followed followed her example, each making a salute as she or he did so.. Angeline Richee instantly relit her flashlight.

"Now you look here, Jack Gaun Sanders."she said in a steady whisper; that was no more than audible"We all of us are within half a inch of death, and what's a long night worse; facing three different dangers, mainly from foe and fire.The fire is coming this way and we are in the path of the heart of it.We must get through the enemy.If I don't move; they that is many of my followers will rebel and throw me off.But you mark I'll stand by you through thick and thin.I was about desperate to know the foe had possession of our raft, and to be captured into the bargain.But I see Jack you are the right sort.I said to myself, you stand by Jack , Angeline, and he'll stand by you through the night.You are hi her last card; and by the heaven s Angeline He's yours for safty.Back to back said I to myself.You aid him and he'll bring you through and back to the rest."

Jack dimly began to understand.

"You mean all is lost?" he asked.

"Yes I do."she answered."We won't accomplish your plan of brea ing through without serious loss, and the men proposes to do all the fighting and will cover our own side.We must break through, or we will all perish for when daylight comes, the foe will be able to see us, and will attack in dreadful numbers and bring machine guns to do us up too like we did them. Since

the raft was first gone, and our safty perilous, and once I looked into that cove, Jack, and saw the raft into thepossession of the accursed enemy I felt as if all was lost and I was about to give out.As for your work you saved us all.As for their loim mark me they are outright fools and cowards.I'll bring ourselves through so if so be as I can from them and get back to Gertrude.My followers would rather die fighting, than remain cooped here. If I remain they'll mutiny and I cannot blame them.But see here Jack--tit for tat---you stay beside me, and do not get seperated."

Jack was bewildered it seemed a thing so hopeless she was pl anning to undera undertake--she a mere little t n ten year old girl, yet the ring leader throughout.

"What I can do, that I will do." he said.

"It's a bargain."cried Angeline Richee."You speakup up lucky, and we have a chance."

She walked over to the torch, where it stood propped against the bark of a dead tree, and knocked it down for fear it would set the t ree on fire and start a blaze at a very bad spot.

"Understand me Jack"she said returning."I've a good head on my should ers placed there by Our Blessed Lord Himself. "I'm sure we are right now and will before daylight join Gertrudes side.I know you've got that raft safe, and know where it is too for I saw you beach it.How you don't it so cleverly I do not n know,but it is safe and out of sight of the enemy.Now you mark me.I ask no questions, nor I won't let others.I know when a game on and I know a l lad that's staunch.You and me can do a power of good together.Here that every one.We'll get through this very night."

She drew some milk from a condensed can.

"Will you drink a little Jack?" she asked; and when the boy said"Only aft er you" she first took the drain, and then handed it to the boy."She said,"we need some thing to revive us for there's serious trouble ahead.And talking of trouble s, why did those two clandelinian spies whit the plane we got from the dead christian spy Jack."

The boys face expressand great wonder so unaffected, that she saw the boy did not know anything about it, and that it was needless to ask questions on that sury subject.

"Ah well they tried to get it through"said she;"And there's something under that, no doubt-- something, surely under thatm Jack, bad or good.That is why we are so hard pressed."

And she took another swallow from another can she opened shaking her fair curly head like a tigress who looked forward to the worst.

THE DESPERATE PLANS. THEY START THE ADVANCE.
THE DEVIL YELL OF THE GLANDELINIANS AMONG THE WOODS.
THE FALL OF A GLANDELINIAN CHRISTIAN
ANGELINE RICHEE AND GERTRUDE AT ARE REUNITED AGAIN.
AND LAST.

GERT
ANGELINE RICHEE THEN CONVENED THE GIRL AND BOYSCOUT O TO HAVE A COUNCIL among themselves to plan as how to break through, and bring her their suggest ions.The council had last some minutes, when one of them came forth, and with a salute begged for a torch as the one thrown down had gone out.Angeline briefly agreed, but advised him to be careful with it, and not start a forest fire over their heads,and this emissary retired again, leaving the boy, Angeline, and the sleeping force in the dark.

"There's excitement coming for us soon, Jack"she said in a friendly tone.

The boy looked toward the flood but could see nothing that far.The embers of the camp fire had died out or at least burned themselvesout, and now glowed so low and duskily, that the boy understood why the girls and others holding the conspiracy against the foe desired a torch.About half way down the slope to the distant floood, eighteen boy and girl officers were collected in a group, one held the light, another it was Dolores, was on her knees in their midst, and the boy saw the blade of an open knife shine in her hand with varying colors in the distant fire; and torch light.The rest were all stooping as though watching the work of the girl.The boy could just make out that she had spied of paper as well as a knife in her hand, and was still wondering how anything so i insongruous had come in their possession when th- the kneeling girlscout rose once more to her feet, and the whole party began to move together ward toward Angeline.

"Here they come"said Jack, and he returned to his former position, for it seemed beneath his dignity that they should find him watching them.

"Well let them come--let them come"said Angeline cheerfully."But I hope they have reached a final answer."

They finally came, and five of them out of the twenty officers, ordered one of their number forward.The girl stepped forward briskly, and having passed something to Angeline Richee from hand to hand, slipped smartly back to her companion officers after saluting.Angeline looked at what had been given her.

"The decision.I thought so."she observed."Where did you get the paper? Why Hello, look here now, you've gone and cut thisout of an old Newspaper.Why cut it from a news paper.?"

"Ah there"said Angeline jennings----"there.What did I say to you Mildred.No use of that I told you."

"Well it's done now."continued Angeline Richee."Well all swing forward to the front now I believe.What fellow had this Newspaper.It's a Glandelinian Newspaper."

"It was Richard Tinkleton."said one.

"Richard Tinkleton."Then he can get to his own word."said Angeline Richee."Remember no one in camp here allowed to carry round Glandelinian Newspapers without special reason."

But here the long plain looking girlscout officer struck in."

"Let's settle down to work Miss Richee."she said."These officers have handed you the decision in full council, as it is our duty, just turn it over and see what is written there.Then it would bee best and safer for all of us to get into action."

"Thanks Georgie Tilton.You always was brisk for military business"replied the girlscout leader, a and had the rules by heart as I'm pleased to see. Ah well what is it anyway?Ah move the troop in front, and girl and boys in rear.All with machine guns go first, that's it is it.Good suggestion.Very prettily written to be sure, like printing almost.Your handwriting Georgeie? Why you was getting quite a leading girl in this here regiment ofours.You'll be captain next I shouldn't wonder and help us drive the foe from our country. Just oblige me with my flash light will you, and I can write my answer.".

Then she turned to one known as Mable."Come now"continued Angeline, come down off that high barrel there, and help sign this.We are moving in one hour."

She did but in signing her name she made a slight mistake.

"I thought you said you know the military rules Mable"returned Angeline Richee almost contemptuously."Leastways if you do not you should, and I should wait here till we get satisfaction for our grievances from the enemy and so we must move or our own names won't-be worth pen and ink.After we reach Gertrudes again we'll see.First the Glandelinians have absolutely made a hes of our flood cruise, and any body will be truthful enough to say that. Second we were forced to almost let the enemy out of our trap for nothing.What did they want out.?I do not know but its pretty plain they wanted the raft to prevent our escape on it.Third we couldn't get proper chances to go at them when they first struck us because it was so dark.Oh we are through the whole thing girls, and boys, the enemy wanted to do us evil, that's what's wrong, and they are partisans of Mylestens troop if'il be bound.And then forthly Jack secured the raft."

"That is so,"said Dolores excitedly.

"All?" asked Angeline Richee quietly.

"plenty enough too."retorted Dolores."We'll all be destroyed and sunday for these Glandelinians if we do not get out of here."

"Well now look here, I'll talk these four points again, one after another more plainer.The Glandelinians made a hes mash out of our cruise on the flood didn't they?"

"Yes."

"And killed some of our best friends, especially girls?"

"I should say so."

"And wounded Jean Saunders three times?"

"Indeed."

"Killed our lovely boys?"

"Yes indeed they did the dirty skunks."

"Well now girls and boys, you all know what I and Gertrude wanted,and you know that if all that is being done, we'll be aboard that raft before the first streak of daylight to morrow no morning as ever was, whether every man alive or not, and fit, and full of good plum duff, and all these provisions on board her too by heaven.Well who among the Glandelinians will cross me even though I'm a ten year old girl with a pretty sissy rage.Who will force my hands?Who will fr su frustrate me.Ahvies a few dance, I'm with you there, and looks like mighty good chance with Jack leading us on.But who done most of it for us.Why it was Jack.And the enemy have enough impudence to up and dare stand for getting us into their grasp, that try to sink our country under water, and turn our forests away, murder children, insult god and his Holy ones, and make Christianity a blot on the world.By the powers of God and heaven but we'll show the enemy this will top the stiffest yarn to absolutely nothing.We girls will make history or my nah name is not Angeline Richee." she paused,and Jack could see by the faces of her officers that these words had not been said in vain.

"That's for number one"cried Angeline Richee, wiping the sweat from her brow for she had been talking with a vehemence that shook the air."Why I give you my word, I'm sick to speak of the Glandelinians.The Glandelinians who call us Christian dogs, have neither name nor memory,and I leave it to fancy where their mothers or fathers or other guardians were that let them come to join the army under their accursed flag.Brave glandelinian soldiers.I reckon cowardly butchers is their trade.All they know of u is cut the insides out of little children, and call that a war."

"Go on Angeline "said one of the boys"you are talking good."

"The Glandelinians are a nice lot,"returned Angeline.The Glandelinian soldiers think they have bungled this cruise on us, and are about to capture us.Ah by heaven if they could understand how its bungled, they would see.Before I'd li let them take us, I'd send a forest fire down on them.We are near the same danger of being strangled to death by these accursed soldiers in gray that my necks stiff with thinking of it.You've seen many little children I suppose, hanged in chains, crucified, murdered in all kinds of horrible ways.Ask the Vivian Girls what they have seen, and they'll tell you plenty that would make chills go up and down your backs.Now that is about where we are, every singleone of us, thanks to those two spies who failed to get the plans the dead christian spy left with us and other ruination fells is like them.And if you want to know about number four,and that boy Jack, why thank heave n isn't he the bravest lad we got.He is our last chance we got for our safty, and I shouldn't wonder.But the enemy kill that boy, not me. And number three.Ah well there's a great deal more to say in number number three.Maybe none of you do count it nothing to have a real good doctor come to see you every day when you're wounded by those gray scaled adders, eh with your head broke, your body torn by wounds, or you Hans that had a shoulder wound.And mayby perhaps you didn't know the doctor

is no more.And also perhaps you didn't know that we must rejoin Gertrude at all costs.But there is a necessity to it, and not so long till then is there safty for us all, and we'll see who will be glad to have Jack as our boat boy scout leader when it comes to that.And as for number two, and why I made a bargian with the sensible wounded Glandelinian captian who came with the flag of truce to me when he came crawling on his hands and knees to make it not being able to walk---on his knees he came, he was that downhearted --but that's a trifle, look at the r provisions that's why.And the reason for sure the Glandelin ians after after us like this, you look there, that is the reason."

And she cast down a paper that Jack could not recognise---but which was none other than the map plan that the dead christian spy had secured from Mylstaas Headquarters.How Angeline Richee happened to have it in her possession no one could fenny.But if it was inexplicable to him, the appearance of the map was inexplicable to the others.They leaped upon it like cats fr upon a mouse.It went from hand to hand, one tearing it gently from another, and by the ejaculations and cries,and the childish laughter with which they accom panied their examination, anyone would have thought, now not only were they fin gering the very crisis of the nations cause, but w were in heaven over it besides in safty.

"Yes"said one" that's Mylstas's great and myst mystical plan alright.See there is it.N and a score below, so he's up to something about the flood too."

"Mighty pretty"said Dolores."But how are we to get away with it, and us so far from the raft, and the enemy close by."

"Angeline Richee suddenly sprang up.

"Now I give you warning Dolores."she cried"One half hour more of waiting and we'll give the enemy a good taste of our fury.How.How do I know.You ought to tell me that--you and the rest, what'll we do to the enemy who almost lost usour raft,with their interference burn them.But they can't get the best of us, they ain't got the invention, the very brains of a cockroach. But we'll fool the glandelinians."

"That's fair enough."said Mildred.

"Fair,I should say so."said Angeline. "The glan delinians lost the raft through this boy, I found the map.Who is the better boy and girlscout for that,and now we'll prepare by heaven,lest whom you please to be the first advancing column, and let's be done with it."

"Abbieannia forever.Abbieannia forever.Abbieannia forever." they cried."Abbieannia forever. Down with glandelinia."

"So that's the tune is it."Good"cried Angeline Richee.Now every one this moves.Glandelinia will criss cross her luck and sink into a hole, and that's about all just now."

"It'll do to make glandelinia do the kissing on, won't it."Growled Dolores, who was evidently uneasy about the whole situation of the war. "Our nation is not in danger at all."returned Angeline Richee derisively. "Not it.These disasters don't bind us no more than a bailed book.It'll be the ruin of Glandelinia."

"Don't it though"cried Mildred, with a sort of joy. "Well I believe that's worth having too."

"Here Jack, here's a curiousity for you."said Angeline Richee, and she tossed him the strange map.

"It was very large about the size of maps we see hanging on walls.One side of the paper was full of strange writings, the other contained a map of Calvarinias wars disasters.For some reason or other the unprinted side had been blackened with some sort of wood ash which already began to come off and soil the boys fingers.He had seen this curiousity before but could not read a trace of the writing by the more torch light.That was the end of the planning.Soon after, with a drink of milk all around for the officers and still paying no attention th to those still asleep they started the preparations first. Indeed for Jack he had heaven knows matter enough for thought in the mah madmad who had almost slain him earlier that night in his own perilo s perilous position, and above all the remarkable game that he saw Angeline Richee now engaged upon keeping her troop together with one hand, and grasping with the other after every means possible and apparently impossible to save all the lives of her comrades by outwitting the Glandeliniens.Jack 's heart was sore for all of her followers to think on the dark perils that threatened, and the shameful outcome of the adventures so far.It sure was disasterous. They were no better off than if all had swung on shameful gibbets that awaited criminals.

Soon the rest of the force of the boy and girlscout,s were awakened indeed they were all awakened by a bugle call, and Jack could see one of the sentries who was a man shake himself together from where he had fallen against a trees trunk and also were awakened by a clear hearty voice hailing them from the margin of the wood;

"Camp ahoy"it shouted.Who 's in possession."

To Jack it sounded like Penrods voice, and he was surprised.He looked through his glasses, helped by the glare of the forest fires reflecting the country side.And Penrod it surely was.Recently before, the boy and others who had not slept had heard distant and heavy firing for quite a long time and wondered what it had all been.Although Jack was glad to hear the sound, yet his gladness was not w thout a feeling of regret too.He felt he would be held responsible for not bringing Angeline Richee through as Gertrude had hoped he would, and he almost felt ashamed to look Penrod in the face.

He must have come round with a large force and drove off the foe, for it was now two oclock in the morning, and when Jack ran forwards.little to see, he saw himstanding at attention, and at som distance a large force of men and boyscouts were behind him.

"You Penrod. "cried Angeline Richee."Good morning, for sleept as she was she had remained broad awake and he ming with good nature in a moment."You have come!How did you did it.And you are bright andearly too.Well they say it is the bri eärly bird that catches the early worm.George Casy escort Penrod with two of his officers into our camp.He's got a flag of truce with him.All is doing well Penrod, and we have vanquished the enemy threees times ourselves.So she continued on, standing on the hilltop, with her sabre on her shoulder as was for the way of greeting, quite the same girlscout in voice manner and expression."We also have quite a good surprise for you too r friend Penrod"she continued."We've a good brave little boyscout here, and looking fit and taut as a tree itself, worked and helped us like a miracle, even though we were cooped up here thus far into the night."

Penrod, was by this time acrossthe road,and prety near Angeline, and she and the boy could hear the alteration in his voice as he said;

"Not the deserter and cowardly cur Jack Saunders, who left Jean when she was in danger."?

"No, our friend Jack Sanders, the very same Jack as ever was."Said Angeline Richee.The boyscout chief chieftain stopped outright, although he did not speak;; and then it was some seconds before he seemed to be able to more on.

"Well,Well"he said it at last,"Duty first and pleasure afterwards.I have broke through the enemys lines and brought my troops to you.Let us overmaul this cam camp you have captured, and go forth to rejoin Gertrude.We have a way of escape now, and the enemy won't bother us for a while now..."

A moment afterwards, he had entered the camp,, and with one grim nod to Jack, proceeded with his work of seeing that everything was gathered up.He seemed to be not under any apprehencion, though he must have known th at hi his life, among these treachious fire endanrered woods, and in the face of so many unknown perils, depended on a hair, and he rattled on to Angelines officers as if he were paying an ordinary ; professional visit to some of his own relatives.His manner as jack supposed reacted also on the men escorts,for they behaved as if nothing had occured--as if he were a great general they were devoted to,and they his faithful army.

"You're doing well at your work of gatherin g up the provisions."he said to a man with a bandaged head."and if any ones had a close shave it was all of you here in this infernal hell p of a place, and I see now many of you were wounded in your third fight.Well Dolores how does it.You're a pretty color, certainly, why you need sleep my girl or otherwise your head will be upside down.Did you all this this camp in a fight?did the y take this camp in a fight or captured it otherwise Dolores?"

"No a glandelinian officer, who had been saved and befriended b y one of our boyscouts delivered it up to us with a flag of truce."returned Dolores.

"Because you see, since I am Miss Aronburgs a chief boyscout leaddr, or chief of all scouts as she and I prefer to call it."said Penrod in his plea sant way"I make it a poijt point of honor not to lose a man boy or girl in this campaign for our Country"God Bless her, and make Glandelinia smart for it."

The girl and boyscout officers looked at one another in silence.

Jane one of our girls is wounded badly sir"said Joy."I'm afraid she won't pull through."She h was hit sir."

"She don"T "replied Penrod anxiously."Where is she?"

"Over there."

"Well lead me to her."

Penrod was soon bending over her.

"I should say she is.Sit up here Jane and let me see your tongue."The girl ob y obeyed and Penrod continued,"No she sure does not seem very good.She 's in bad pain,and she's in a fever. If we ain't careful we'll lose another girlscout, thanks to the enemy.I'm going to get a general for this the next chance I have."

"The enemy killed three of our girls last night."said a soldier by the name or Morgan."We have been arrant asses to have ever gone ashore from the raft in the first place,and not having sense enough to know when we are safe and when we are not.We are just as well off here as if we were sinkin g i sinking into a vile pestiferous slough.I think it is most probable though-of course its onlyan opinion--that we will have the dude to pay before we will get out of this territory.You know we have the foe batteries up above to face yet, and I'm afraid they'll sink our raft if we go before dark to morrow."

"We do notintend to go before to morrow but this very hour."said Penrod. Where"s Mary Glorinia."

"She's sick too, got a fever, and wouldse wounded in the arm."

"I see.Why did you cap camp here for anyway.Near us is a ter bog.Girls and boys I'm surprised at you all.Well"he added, after he had dosed some of them, and ordered Angeline Richee to see thatthis prescriptions are filled for Jane, Daisy, and ten other wounded girls, and sixteen boys"Well that's done now.And now, before we march, I should wish to have a talk with that brave boypiease."

And he nodded his head in Jacks direction carelessly. Mary Evangelinia was at the tree nearest him, spluttering over some bad tasting medicine but at the first words of the boyscout leaders orposal some other boy swung round with a deep flush, and cried no, don't do it!" and swore.

"Silence"almost screamed Angeline Richee, and looked about her positively like a tigress."Penrod"she went on in her usual tones,"I was just now thinking of that knowing how you fa have a fancy for the boyscout. We are all humbly grateful for yourkindness in coming here to us, and as you see, all put faith in you and so on.And I believe I have found a way as will suit all.Jack will you give me your word of honor as a young boyscout-for a young boyscout leader you surely are, your word of honor not to slip beyond the safty line."

Jack readily gave the pledge desired.

"Then Penrod"said Angeline Richee,"You just step over to the camp fire yonder, and once you are there,, I'll bring the boy down to you.Good night to you sair, and all our duties to Gertrude, and your friends."

The explosion of disapproval which nothing but Angelines black looks had restrained, broke out immediately after Penrod had left and stood near the campfire.Angeline was roundly accused of exposin g Jack to unseen dangers and Penrod too of sarrificing the interests of her followers, and in one word of the identical scant thing that he was doing.It seemed to Jack to be so obvious in this case,that he could not al at all imgine how she was to turn their distrust and excitement.But she was twice stronger in nature than they were, and her leadership, and three nights victories over the foe had given her a guhige huge preponderence on their minds.She called them all the fools,and dolts any one can imagine, said it was necessary that Jack sai should talkwith Penrodout there, fluttered the map in their faces, and asked them if they could afford to be dismissed from the service if she were to report their conduct to Emperor vivian.

"No by gall"she cried,"You couldn't well afford that.Well then you'll keep quiet,and till then I'll gemmon the enemy if I have to fight saten to do soAnd then she had them have a new camp fire light lit, to give light enough to prepare the remov l of the camp and its provisions, and then strode forward, with one hand on the boys shoulder, leaving her foolish almost rebellious boys in a disarray, and silenced by her b volubility rather than convinced.Otherwise she had no fear of them, as though they acted this way, they were terribly devoted to her, and they were only protesting but she nevertheless said to Jack;

"Slow, lad slow.They might come upon us in a twinkling if we were seen to hurry."

Very delibera tely then, did the boy and girl advance acrosse a stretch of sand to where Penrod we awaited them near the glowing camp fire of old and as soon asthey were within easy speaking distance, both saluted and she stopped.

" ou'll t k take notice of this here also Penrod"she said"for if he is not too shy or modest the boy will tell you how he saved all our lives.Penrod when I and all my troop is playing chuck farthing with the last breath in our bodies, you wouldn't think it too much, mayhap to get us through without a single loss.You'll please bear in mind its not my life only, but all these with me---it's that boys into the bargain, and you'll speak for to me Penrod and give us a bit of hope to go on, for the sake of God's mercy.We are in dreadful peril here, fire, enemy, and what not."

It seemed that time that Angeline Richese was a changed girl, once she was out there, and had her back to her swarm of comrades, her cheeks seemed to have fallen in, her voice trembled, never was a soul more dead in earnest.

"Why Angeline, I'm almost surprised at you, you surely are not afraid!"askd Penrod.

"Penrod, no I'm no coward, no, not I---not so much." and she snapped her fingers.I"If I was I wouldn't say it, I would have come into the army as a girlscout and gone through so many adventures with Violet, and her sisters, but they truely never were in this fix we are in right now.And I'll own up fairly, I've the shakes upon me for the flames are clowing in u on us. Jean Thems told me so.She saw it from the top of a tree.You are a good boyscout and true to your colors, and ours,I've n ever seen a better boyscout.And you will not forget what good I have done, nor any more you'll forget the perils I have saved you from.And now I will step aside----see here ---and leave you and Jack alone.And you'll do that for me too---for it's a long stretch, and we have hiding enemies everywhere who'll open fire as soon as we move..."

So saying she stepped back a little way till she was out of earshot, and there sat down upon a tree stump and began to whistle, spinning round now and again upon her seat so as to command asmuch sight as possible in the darkness sometimes of Jack and Penrod, and sometimes of hi her apprehensive boyscouts as they went to and fro in the sand, between the new camp fire---which they were busy kindling---and the trees beyond which the full force were preparing for the advance.

"So Jack"said Penrod"sadly "here you are.I didn't expect you b to see you alive.As you have brewed so shall you drink my boy.Heavens knowns I cannot find it in my heart to blame you, but this much I will say be it kind or unkind, but I saw what you did upon that raft, and whether you was told to do it or not it was downright rash, very reckless.You exposed yourself to ours and the enemy's guns.First we thought the raft was going off with the enemy on board and we opened fire, not the enemy. Was you in that little black boat too which we tried to locate with our searchlights."

"Yes"said Jack."It's a miracle I was spared.My life forfeit any way,and I sho l shouldvhave been dead by now if Our Blessed Lord hadn't protected me, and Penrod believe this, I can die,---and I dare my Ideserve it---but what I fear is the enemy may close in on us, and rush us as soon as daylight comes.If they come to do this!---".

"I'll set the forest ablaze in their path."said Penrod firmly."That'll stop them never fear."The wind is off us to them.But Jack we can't have this.Whip over and we and the whole camp full will run for it now.Angeline Richee is ready.We can't help anything now.I'll take it on my shoulders holus, bolus, blame and shame my boy, but stay here we cannot do.Jump. one jump and we'll run for it like antelopes."

"No"replied Jack,"I sneaked through I did, and it can't be done but on hands and knees only.Even I passed my word as a pledge that I would not goo beyond the safty line.You wouldn't do the dangerous thing yourself, neither you, nor Gertrude nor others, and no more will I neither f would Angeline. Angeline trusted me to take care of myself, I passed my word, and she wouldn't do it either.But Penrod you did not let me finish.We can easily fight through. If they com to attac us when we move we can fire the forest on them now and I could let sl p slip word where the raft is, for when it was inpossession of the enemy I got the ship or raft by Angelines plan, part by luck, and prayer, and part by risking, and she lies in an inlet, on the southern shore and just below the higher water."

"No you are mistaken."said Penrod, with a grin."Gertrude and her force are on it, waiting for us."

Jack looked at Penrod as if he believed he was either kidding or was mad."

"The raft."exclaimed Jack.

"Yes."Replied Penrod, and rapidly he described to him the full thing as will be seen in the next portion of this chapter near ending, and the boy heard him out in silence.

"There's a kind of fate in this.,he observed, when Penrod had done."Every step its too that German boy, and little Jean Saunders my friend who saved us."

"Yes"said Penrod gleefully"and do you suppose by any chance that we are going to let you and Angeline Richee and all the rest lose lives too.Tha That would be a poor return,my boy.And Little Catherine Estrabrook found out the enemys plot, you took the raft from the enemy, The German boy secured it with the help of the soldiers where you left it, the best deep deeds of heroes and heroines ever did.Our girls are as good as soldiers,and over in America they used to say girls are "Frady cats. Oh by heaven, why this is the mischief on the enemy in person.No one throughout the whole country done what you and Joan and the German boy did.Miss Richee, "he cried, Miss Richee"I'll give you a piece of advice before we start"he continued, as the girlscout drew near again"Don't you be in too great a hurry to start.It's dangerous.We got to be careful."

"Why Penrod, I 'll do what isposssible and right."said she."I can only asking your pardon, save my life, that of my force, and the boys by seeking the rejunction of Gertrude, and you may lay to that."

"Well !Angeline "replied Penrod"If that is so, I'll go one step further look out for a tempest when you find it."

"Sir"said Angeline Richee"As between boy and girl, that seems to bee too much, and too little. What you are planning, why you managed to leave Gertrude and come to our aid, why you've given me the hal map taken from the dead christian spy, I do not know, and yet I have done your bidding with my eyes shut, and never a word of hope.Bo but now it seems too much.If oyou won't tell me what you mean plain out, just say so and we'll have to no ve sooner."

"No No"said Penrod, musingly."I've no right to say more, its not my secret, you see Angeline, or I give you my word I 'd tell it to you.But I'll go as far as I dare with you, and a step beyond but I cannot tell too much now or I811 be in trouble with Gertrude.And first I'll give you a bit of hope Angeline, if we all get out of this wolf trap alive, I'll do my best to pull us all through safe and sound."

Angelines face was radiant.

"You couldn't say more, I'm sure Penrod, not if you was even my father." she cried.

."Well that's my concession"added Penrod."My second is a piece of advice.Keep Jack close beside you, and when you need help give a signal. I'll order my troop up now.Go back to Angeline nowJack and we'il soon start."

And Penrod shook hands with him, nodded to Angeline, and then called to his troop to come forward.

Jack"said Angeline, when theywere alone"You have done us a great service and we will never forget it.I seen Penrod advise that we should run for it--with the tail of my eye, and I seen you say no, as plain as hearing.Jack indeed that's one good point to you.To run would mean our anihilation.This is the first glint of hope I had since we were attacked three times to night, and I owe it to you and others.And now Jack we are going to start our move, with sealed orders too, and I don't like it, and therefore you must stick close, back to back like, and we'll save our necks inspite of foe fire, and fortune."

Just then a man hailed them from the fire, that everything was in read iness, and that breakfast too was ready even at so early an hour as they would have no time otherwise,and every one were soon seated here and there ob over buscuit, fried meat and other provisions fro found in the ca mp.They had made a fire fit to roast a hundred oxes,and it had now grown so hot that they could only approach it tward where the wind did not com from it and even there not without precaution.In the same spirit they had cooked enough for all to eat, and when any who had eaten could not finish, to save it from recapture they placed it in their knap sacks and what they couldn't take along they threw it into the fire which bl a x blazed and roared again over this unusual fuel.It was a wonder the enemy was not attracted by it, or that it didn't start a new conflagration, even though in an opening as it was.It even looked as if they were careless of the morrow, but they were not, and these scouts sure had enough fitness for anything like a prolonged campaign.

Even Angeline Richee eating away, had not a word now to say.And this the more surprised Jack, for he thought she had never shown herself so cunning as she did then.

"Oh girls"said she finally"It's lucky you all have our Blessed Lord to thank for our escape from the foe so far.We all have what we wanted we have. Sure enough they thought they had the raft.Now we have it and once we all get on, we'll let the enemy jump about, and find out.And then girls and you too boys us that have the raft, has the upper hand...."Thus she kept running

on, with her mouth full of the hot bacon, thus she restored their hope and cond confidence, and Jack more than suspected, repaired her own at the same time."As for Jack our hero."she continued"That is the last talk, I guess he likes to be with those he loves dear.I've got mypiece of news, and thanks to him for that as q all is over and finished.Gertrude and her gans in possession of the raft.I'll take himas my bodyguard when we start immediately after eating.Once we get back to the raft and Gertrude both, and off to the water again like jolly companions, why then we'll got Jack his promotion, and we will give him his share to be sure, for all his kindness to us.And Penrod too is good."

"It was no wonder everyone were in a good humor now.For his part Jack felt horribly cast down.Should the scheme she had now sketched prove feasible would not the enemy seeing their move spring fiercely and fatally to the attack.Of course as it seemed Angeline Richee still had a foot in either side, and there was no doubt she would prefer anything to escape from the fury of the foe, but most dreaded danger was fire, which was the best hope of escape they had on their side.If the enemy would attack too strong, and start to deplete her force, then fire would be used to frustrate the foe.It was indeed a most desperate plan, nay and even if things so fell that she was able to get through even then what danger lay before them all.what a moment that would be when the full force of the enemys attack would be disasterous to a certainity, and every one should have to fight for their lives, or endanger the country further by making a fire, which would be the only source of escape from the Glandelinians, fierce than pirates.Add to this double apprehension, was the Glandelinian batteries on the heights beyond;and again, another peril adds to the mystery that still hung over the b ehavior of the rest, their unexplained getting somhow through the foes lines, Angeline's unusual possession of a great and puzzling map, or harder still to understand, Penrods warning to Angeline Richee"Look out for a tempest when you find it" and any one can readily believe how Jack, nay many others had little taste for their breakfast and with how with uneasy hearts they set forth at last.It was a dangerous move, Penrod took the lead, whispering to Angeline"SEE that all move cautiously"."They all made a curious figure had any one been there to see them, all in soiled uniforms.Angeline Richee had two guns slung about her; rifles, one before, and one behind, and a brace of pistols on either side besides the great cutlass at her waist, and her long dagger, and a pistol extra in each pocket of her "jockey like red jacket. To complete her strange appearance, her hat was on wrong side out.All the rest were variously burdened with the provisions; and all carrying their own proper weapons, the man going first, and others laden with pork, bread brandy, milks and so forth. All the stores of the camp Jack observed came forth with all the men and he could see the truth of Angelines words.Had she not struck a bargain with the Glandelinian captian whosurrendered to her, she and all her followers, at first deserted by the raft in possession of the foe must have been driven to subsist on clear water and the proceeds of dangerous attempts to raid, or hunt. and if they had been so short of eatables it was not likely they could have lasted very long.Well thus equipped, they all srt out, even those of the wounded, and one of the fellows with the broken head, who should certainly have been very carefull, and soon the whole force was in cautious motion.As they continued on, there was some discussion on the plan.

They had planned on following what was written on the plan chart, but the markings were too large to be guides, and the terms of the note on the back admitted of some ambiguity.And where did Gertrude Angeline now have the raft.If they could get to the shore as Penrod suggested, the ra ft would pull up so they could board, but all would have to be careful even then for the sake of safty, andso with their numbers divided between them, the men first, and the boys second, and the girls third they all set forth upon the bosom of the adventure.The plan as Penrod said of where the raft was to meet them was thus;

"Tall lone pine tree on shore, with branches stretching out like wings, near shoulder of low rise of ground sheding into a thirty foot cliff, bearing a point to the N. of N.W. W. Ten feet from tree.

A tall pint tree was thus the principal mark.Now right before them the forest was bounded by a forested plateau from two to three hundred feet high, adjoining on the northern slope and rising against twards the south into a rough cliffy eminence called by Angeline Richee the"Asthma" Hill.The top of the plateau was massed as thick as grain or what with pine

trees of varying height, but at that distance in day time lookinglike a forest or parsely.But higher than any every here and then there one of a different species rose fourty or fifty feet clear above its neighbors, and Penrod said:

"Grop group low when we pass here.Glandelinian masked batteries on that Plateau."

Yet although that was the case,vevery man ahead had picked a favoruite movement of his own, and therefore not a sound was made, all were careful not even to make the creaking of a twig, and Angeline Richee alone shrugged her shoulders,and bidding all to be careful.As a red light round and piercing fir flared from the plateau, all pulled forward easily and noisely by Penrods direction, and after quite a long passage"It seemed a million years to some nervious ones, they finally passed the location of the plateau and came to what looked like a watery swamp but what was the lowest land partly under flood waters.To go through here, they could not, as their feet would make a splashing sound in the water, and arouse the wary enemy.They thus changed their course to the northeast to higher ground, and began to ascend the slope. be beyond the plateau.At the first outset heavy miry ground nearest the flood and a matted vegetation like that of a marsh, greatly delayed their progress, but by little and little the rise began to steepen, and become more forested unde r foot.It was indeed a most pleasant portion of the region they were now approaching, but Penrod had whispered we are "We are close to our enemies nowBe careful.A heavy scented broom and many flowei flower ing shrubs had almost taken the place of high grass and weeds.Thickets of green brush were thickly here and there or in rows and nutmeg trees too which were dotted here and there among the pines with red columns and the blacker shadow of the pines and the first mingled their spis spice with the aroma of the others.The air being win with wind off the flood was even here clear of smoke and fresh and stirring, and this under the sheer far distant forest fire glares was a wonderful refreshment to their senses.The party spread itself a r abroad in a huge fan shape, sometimes crawling on hands and knees, sometimes leaping to and fro, or doing exactly as the girl Angeline ,and the two boys, Jack and Penrod were doing.About the centre and a good way before the rest, Angeline Richee, and Jack followed, she plowing with deep pants, among the sliding gravel.From time to time indeed, she had to lend him a hand, and then he had to do likewise for her or either one would have missed their footing and fallen backwards to down the hill.They had proceeded for about half a mile, and were approaching the brow of another plateau, when some man upon the farthest left disregarding to orders to keep silent began to cry aloud as if in terror.Shout after shout came from him, and many of the others began to run in his direction. A searchlight flared from the Glandelinian battery position, but it failed to penetrate the forest.

"Brat the fool."hissed Jack"He can't found a ghost."

The whole force was signalled to halt, and Angeline, Penrod, and J ack and some others ran in his direction, and they found indeed as they reached the spot it was something very different.At a great distance to their rear they observed a great wave of flames was advancing, deploying like the advance of men in a battle line, and trees of all kinds seemed to obe involved in the flames now here now there, some flaring, going out, and flaring again.And at the foot of a very big hill covered with pine smoke rose like as if the hill was ready to explode into the air any mov- moment. A chill struck for a moment to every heart.

"The fire is threatening us."said Merry Tur who was bolder than the rest, and who had come up close.Leastways it might help us more than anything. But James why cry out like that."You'll have the enemy on our ears next thing you know."

"Ay,ay ! I forgot in my excitement"said the man.

"Like enough, you wouldn't look to find a bishop here I reckon yto give you the lq Last Sacrements if you were shot down by a rebel sniper.But what sort of a way is that fire burning anyhow.It ain't according to nature."

Indeed on a second glance it seemed impossible to fancy that the fire was burning forward in a natural position or progression forward as a fire does.But for some disarray"The flames perhap ps rhaps bu n burning seemingly three directions at once(the frontal wave now advanced in a long straight curved line, then breaking off one arm moved in one direction, and the flank going directli h dire ctly in the opposite, and the rear starting to mount the hill tward the plateau where the Glandelinian battery was.

"I've taken a notion into my numbskull"said Penrod."That fire has been set.It's not a branch of the main one.Here's the compass, there's the tip top point of the hills.Just take a bearing will you lxalong the line of them fires. The enemy set it to drive us out, and by gad its heading for the enemy instead.Hurrah.That's one of them."

Indeed it was true.The fire moved straight in the direction of the long plateau.

"I thought so"cried Angeline Richee"This here is a good thing for us, as long as it does not change c its chou chorus.right on there is our way to where we had theraft in the cove.But by Leaping lizards if it don't make me cold inside to think of what the Glandelinians might do if they spot us.This is one of himpurposes to oust us into the open as the enemy can get us and massacre us all, and no mistake.The glandelinians are sixteen tocur one even here, they'd kill us all if they ad had the chance.They are under general Allardyce turpo.You remember that general don't you Penrod?"

"I sure do."returned Penrod,"I know him well,"He'd take the very insides out of a little child as he would, he's that cruel and fierce."

"Speaking of insides"said another,"why don't we some day find his lying round! These glandelinians don't deserve mercy, or quarter for they war in a fiercer and more heartless way than if all the legions of hell were at war with creation."

"Leaping Lizards, and that's true." cried Angeline Richee.

"When the forest co fire comes properly there won't be a thing left here." said Dolores still looking at the fire."Not a tree or ground brush.It don't look natural to me."

"No by Jupiter it don't"agreed Angeline Richee"Not natural, not good for us as well as the foe.Great guns comrades, but if the Glandelinians were surrounding us, this would be a hot spot for all of us and you and me too Penrod.Sixteen against our six they are, and if they got the better of us ,two weeks from hences bones would be what is left of us then."

"I saw the Glandelinians commit the most horrible massacres."said Jane Wellfort." Violet and her sisters saw many. There lay thousands of little kids, torn and mangled and gutted ."

"Dead- -ay sure enough, they were dead, and how many of their assassins now gone below to feed Satans fires."said the soldier with the bandage"But if spirits ever would walk like ghosts stories it should be those of those childrah, and haunt these glandelinians good and proper.Dear heart, but these children died horrible deaths, they did."

."And they sure did ."observed another."I saw one terrible slaughter, and I tell you true I never would like to see another or hear the terrible shrieks and cries of the victims.It was frightful, and the death haul on the country already."

"Come come"said Angeline,"Let's stow this talk."They're dead, and in heaven they have died myr- myrons to the cause, and their spirits do not haunt, that I know leastways, they wo won't by day if they did, and you know there ain't such things as ghosts.Cars killed cats.Let's proceed before we join the dead kids."

They all started certainly, but in spite of the hot air raiading from the fires, and the glaring red light, the troops and boys and girls no longer ran separate through the wood but kept side by side and did not even speak with bated breath, but kept silent altogether.The terror of the horrible situation had fallen on their spirits.They knew the fury of the dreadful Glandelinians. Partly from the dampening influence of this alarm partly to rest Angeline Richee, and the wounded ones, the whole force sat down, as soon as they had gained a thicker wood.The plateau in possession of the foe being now what tilted toard the southeast, was quite a distens from them, but as Angeline observed not out of range of the enemys batteries though.But nevertheless where they were commanded a wide prospect on either hand.Before them over the tree tops in the far distance they beheld by the by the aid of the forest fires glare a high sloping shore fringed with the black flood surg surf, behind they not onlylooked down upon the distant cove where they had brought the raft in, but saw clear acfo across the "pit"and the eastern lowlands which were partly under water--a great field of open sea like expe expanse of water upon the west, north, and southeghser above them rose a great flaming hilltop, and there was no sound save the hisss of the flames and that of the flood rollers, and the chirp of countless insects.so dark it was in the woods that not a soul was seen outside of the christian troops of men and child scouts, black masses of wreckage upon the flood, and the very largeness of the view aided by the lights of fires increased the sense of solitude and the horror of the situation.

Angeline Richee, as she sat, lighted her flasher, and took certain bearings with it her compass.

"There are dangerous turpentine forests about here." she said"About to our front and on our left and right.If the fire was to get here notone of us would get time to e escape.Hells region I call it.It's childsplay to fight the enemy, but the fires are the worst. If it was safe going to morrow I'd have a mind to sleep the rest of the night nowmo."

"I don't feel that comfortable."growled George."Thinking, of the forest fire, illness in this fev feverish region, and the enmny and other perils has about done me up"Ah well George, you can praise our Blessed Lord the situation is not worse." said Angeline.

"Th ese Glandelinians were ugly devils."cried another boy,with a shudder"And as dreadad as the forest fire.They'll set one all about us I don't doubt."

"That is how the glandelinians fight w a war."adder added George Yallsman. "If they can't whip us in battle, they'll flood and blow, and burn us up."

"Bad situation."added still another."That's a true word indeed.We are sunk, and no doubt about that"

Ever since they had discovered the new forest fire started to their rear, and and got upon this train of thought, they had sp spoken lower and lower, and they had almost got down to whispering by now, so that the sound of their talk hardly interrupted the silence of the wood.All of a sudden out of the middle of the tresses far in front of them, and resounding in a long drawn chourus a tumultious high, volume of voices struck up the well known Glandelinian air and words only in two lines here;

The Christian dogs are beaten, many a cat they have eaten,
We are the cats, they are the dogs, but we'll make them the hogs."

Jack never seen men or boys, even girls morecdreadfully affected, than these. He noticed that of those within his sight in the darkness aided the by the glare the color went from their faces at once, hundreds leaped to their feet withrifles at the ready, some clawed hold of others, and every one else threw themse,ves flat to the ground.

"The Glandelinians.They're going to attack us."cried Darge.

The war devil yell of a song had stopped as suddenly as it began---broken off as any one would have said in themiddle of a note as if some one had been able to lay the g finge hand o upon the mouths of all the singers at once.Coming so far through the now smokyhair among the forest at such a quiet night, Jack thought it sounded quite thrilling and somewhat sweet like a troop of men at the song; and the effedt on the rest was different.

"Come,come,come"said Angeline Riches struggling with her ashen lips to get the wor words out"this won't do.Be steady to resume the march.Every'one have the rifle at the ready.The Glandelinians are not going to attack, they are either skylarking or they're drunk, ."

Her cou e courage had come back as she spoke, and some of the color to her face with it.Already however sos of the others began to lend an ear to this encouragement, and were coming a little to themselves when the same voices broke out again---not this time singing, but in a faint distant hail that echoed yet fainter and weirdly among the clefts of the distant hills.

"The Christian dogs are the demons of hell"the voices wailed---for that is the way the words may have sounded"Down with Christian nations, Down with their marches, down with all christian children even unto hell---down, down,downdo,ddown," again, again, and again, and again, and still again, and ag i again, and then rising a little higher there came swelling a roar of yells as if from a million voices from the infernal regions, sounding more uncan ny than even the weird cries of ghosts in that solitude"We'll hang the christian dogs to the Rum halter boys."

Every one remained as if they had been trees rooted to the very ground, their eyes starting from their heads.Long after the voices had died away they still stared in silence, dreadfillily before them.

" That fixes it forallof us "said one of them."We are in hell.Let's get out."

"They ain't real human beings, them's demons"cried another."

"Indeed them are the cries of the fiends." moaned Mildred"Those are the words they use in hell."

Still Angeline Riches was unconquered.She was not even trembling.She had often, too often to relate heard these same cries, at at the first time long ago she had been unnerved but now she was used to it, and she had not now surrendered.

"They are not the fiends, but Glandelinians, all in flesh and blood." shemuttered."And then arousing herself"Every one Attention"she cried"I'm here to get to that raft, and I'll not be beatenoby the glandelinians, nor the whole of hell and earth combined.I never was afraid of them , and by heaven I'll face demons and ghosts.We'll get to Gertrude and the raft .When ever did boy anddgirlscouts ever show the yellow feather for a rotten bunch of grayoated pole cats, not I and I WON T."

But there was no sign of re-awakening courage in any of her followers, rather indeed , instead, there was growing terror at the disrestful nature of her words.

"Be careful there Miss Richee.Don't you cross the fiends of hell.They are dangerous.

But what Angeline said about the Glandelinians and the demons, though not sinful, are not fit to mention here. And the rest were all too terrified to reply.They would have run away deserted, had they dared, but fear of both the strange yells, and of Angeline's severe aurthority kept them together, many close to her and Penrod and Jack, as if her daring helped them.She on her part had pretty well fought her weakness down to keep from laughing at their fears outright"Fiends,well maybe they are."Angeline said."But there are things to that sound that des not seem clear me me and I'll explain your fears are wrong.And how? Well to the sound you've observed there was a tumult of echoes.Now no one ever wrote that a spirit had a shadow, and not an echoe either.That would not be in nature entirely.Those are Glandelinians with their infernal "devil yells."Have no you not ever heard the Glandelinians give forth their devil yells in battle."

"Every one within sight shook,their heads, and those distant said;

"No never."

This argument seemed weak enough for Jack, and to his wonder they all began to greatly to be greatly relieved.

"Well that's so"said Penrod."You've a head on your shoulder, Angeline and there's no mistake.We are have ing the wrong opinion, and com to think of it it was not the enemy's cry of battle but som chanting and singing.They were doing it just---"

"To unverve us."said Angeline.

"Yes and so it is"said Mildred, springing to her knees."They are trying to fighten us into the open so they can shoot us all down."

"It don't make muph odds does it now?" asked Jack."We are in a tight hole as it is."

But the others greeted this remark with scn scorn and derision.

"Why noone pays any attention to the glandelinians when they get used to them, and know their ways."cried Penrod.

Indeed it was extraordinary how their courage had returned, and how their faces came back to natur al color.Soon they were chatting together,with intervals oflistening, and not long after, hearing no further sound, they shouldered their wew weapons, and set forth again, Penrod marching first with Angeline's compass to keep them all on the right line with where Gertrude was waiting for them on the raft. Mildred alone still held her small bible which she had been reading from, as she went and looked around her with fearful glances, but she found no sympathy for her fears, and even Angeline joked her on her precautions.But she would not be comforted indeed it was soon plain to others that the little girl was falling sick, hastened by the heat, breathing in smoke so long, and by exhaustion, and the shock of her alarm,the fever predicted by Penrod was evidently growing swiftly higher.About fourty of them were with fever.It however was fine marching through the trees, and now their way lay down a little hill downward slant.The pines great and small grew close together, and even the clumps of nutmeg and azalea close together like wh at wheat in someplaces.Striking onward a s they did pretty near the northwest of the landscape, they drew on the one hand even nearer under the shoulders of the higher hills, and on the other looked ever wider over that sea like expanse of water where Jack had once tossed and trembled in the little boat.The first of the tall forests was reached, and by the bearings proved the wrong path.So with the second rise.They were further offfrom where Gertrude had the raft than they thought.They came a forest of thick pine with high underbrush.This forest had been easily seenofar on on the gloo flood trees rising beerly two hundred feet high into the air, above a clump of both on the east and the north.But it was not the size of this forest that nowimpressed every one it was the knowle knowledge that they were only a mile or soaway from where the raft now was.The thought of getting on board the raft,as they drew nearer, swallowed up their previous terrors.Their eyes burned in their heads, their feet grew speedier and lighter, their whole sould soul was bound up in that fortune of securing a means to outwit the enemy. Angeline Richee went forward as fast as she could,her nostrils stood out and quivered, she screamed like a girl that has gone insane when the flies settled on her ho v hot and shiny face,and she frontim to time turned her eyes upon the direction of the distant enemyposition with a deadly look.

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Certainly she took no pains to hide her thoughts about the foe, and certainly Jack who was closest read them like print. In the immediate nearness of her goal, all else seemed to have been forgotten, and Jack could not doubt that she had hoped to get through the enemys lines or ann ihilate them, and that she hoped to seize upon the raft under cover of the night, then when right off at a propor distance turn all her guns on the raft tward shore and destroy every Glandelin ian on shore within range. shaken as he was with the alarms of the peril it was hard for him to keep upwith the rapid pace of the others before and behind. Now and again he stumbled, and as he got up he noticed Angoline Richee lu launching hemurderous looks tward the enemys batteries. Mildred who had dropped behind them, and now brought up the rear, was babbling to herself both prayers, and curses against the enemy, as her fever kept rising. This also added to Jacks wretchedlenes, and to crown all, he was haunted by the thought of the tr tragedy that could be enacted upon this location if the enemy ever once got the uppper hand would cut them all down like they were mere grass. This forest that was now so peaceful would soon again ring with cries. They were now at the margin of the flood shore.

"Hurrah comrades, All together." shouted a boy by the name of Merry wolf, and the foremost of them broke into a run, and suddenly not ten yards farther, Angeline beheld them stopping. A low cry arose. Angeline Richee doubled her pace like onepossessed, and next moment she and Jack had come to a dead halt. Before them at a distance revealed by the glow of the forest flare was a great line of Glandelinians in perfect array advancing tward them, and one Regiment was pouring through an exdavation, which was not very recent for the sides had fallen in, and grass had sprouted on the bottom. Into andout of thispoured an immense Regiment of Thirteen hundred rebels broken into two sections and starting forw ard at a run. All was clear to probation. Their plan of advance for the raft had been found out.

"Those with their machine guns into position." screamed Angeline Richeee at the top of her voice, and her command was obeyed.

There was nev never such an overturn in this world. Every one of Angelines followers were as though they had been struck. But with Angelin e Richee the blow passed almost instantly. Every thought of her soul had been set full stretch, like a racer, on getting through to the raft, well she was brought up in a single second, dead, and she kept her head, found her temper and fixed her plans before her officers had time to realize the situation.

"Every one behind trees who can" she shouted. Machine gunners, wait till they are near enough." Then turning to Jack, she whispred||

"Jack" Take these, and stand by for trouble."

And she passed him a couple of small but deadly hand grenades, and get ready with a few herself. At the same time she began to quietly move northward, and in a few steps had put a small hollow between herself, Jack and the advancing for, and suddenly herself to Jacks surprise threw into position a machine gun which she evidently and secretly carried. Then she looked at Jack and nodded as much as to say-"Here's a narrow corner for a goodposition" As indeed it was.

"Do you think we'll worst them?" Ja kJ ack asked anxiously.

There was no time for her toanswer. The Glandelinians with oaths and cries, mingled with blasphemies and defiances, began to rush forward in groups here and there evidently scattering to avoid disaster from the fire of the defenders as mo much as possible pulling down brush and branches as they did so. Angeline smiled. A strong breeze was blowing straight from her t tward the Glandelinians.

All the rest of the men soldiers stood behind trees with rifles at the ready. The leader James Morgan found a goodposition for his men. He stuck a flag right at the spot paying no attention as the advancing Glandelinians gave forth a perfect spout of oaths and blasphemies. It was an Abyssinkilian flag.

"This a beautiful flag." he roared, shakin g it tward the Glandelinians. O"Come and take it if you can. You're the Glandelinians for bargains are you? Come forth and take it you wooden headed skunks."

"Into position now everybody." said Angeline, with the coolest insolence" "You'll find those Glandelinians more dangerous than we think and I shouldn't wonder."

"Dangerous" repeated Dolores in a scream. "Comrades do you hear that? I tell you those Glandelinians knew we were coming all along. Look at them coming, and you'll see they mean to do away with us."

By this time every one was in Dolores f avor. They all were in position darting furious glances tward the foe. One thing Jack observed which looked well for them, the Glandelinians were exposed, the defenders were not.

Well there they stood, they two to the enemys five, a big pit between them at one location. Angoline Richee nevermoved, she watched them, standing very upright, and looked as cool as Jack ever saw her. She was brave and no mistake. Just as soon as the Glandelinians were near enough, all the men opened with their rifles, and those in front with their machine guns, the sudden roar was terrific and terrifying. A full hundred Glandelinians tumbled every which way into the excavation, the others moving between the trees were seen to drop like grass cut by a lanw a lawn mower, and the survivors turned and ran for it with all their might, t throwing those advancing on further in the rear into confusion. They were rallied however, and their chief officer a general pushed them on but suddenly he spun round like a teetotum, and fell his length upon his side where he lay dead, but still twitching. Again and again the Glandelinians t ried to push on, but they were annihilated.

"Forward." cdd Penrod. "Break through. We have a good chance." "Double quick every one. We must head them off from the raft region or we'll be cornered."

And with a shout all set off at a great pace, the firing now being of a clattering nature, many som times plunging through the bushes up to the chest. The Glandelinian return fire this time was telling, and men began to fal on Angelines side, one by one as quick as a shot was fired by the enemy, but they kept on. Angeline Richee was anxious to keep up with them. The work that good bravelittle girl went through was work no sound girl ever equalled. As it was she kept up with the rest and on the verge of strangling with her exiertions and from out of breath, when they reached the brow of a low slope, where the enemy suddenly let crash a terrific volley, bringing down dead, a hundred of the Abyssinkilian soldiers. A shot skinned Jacks knee, and killed ten boys within his sight, the Glandelinians let loose shell and spran shrapnell, and t it was time for Angelines side to scatter for shelter, as another hundred men were mowed down many suffering dreadful wounds and screaming horribly in their agony. Three men at once had their eyes and face torn from their heads, and made the air hedious with their cries of agony.

"Halt them" screamed Angeline "this is too much. They'll mow us all down."

Sure enough this was necessary. A shell hit a tree top near her, and a falling branch branch struck her down but did not injur her. In a more open part they could see the Glandelinians still running who were notunder the shelter of thisposition, and the men with machine guns letloose upon them destroying every single last man of b them by the hundreds. Jack threw a hand grande up tward the slope and blew up a gun and its full crew. On the left others of the foe were still running in the same direction right for the brow of the hill. They got into the fire of the machine guns, and they too dropped to the last man. It was a massacre of Glandelinianspure and simple. Part of AAngelines force were already between the , and the shore line, and now all those of her survivors had to halt for a respite, while the girk girl moping her face, came slowly up with the rest.

"Thank you kindly Jack for demolishing their battery, Jack" said she. "You threw the grw grenades in about the k nick of time I guess. and so we wo rsted them again did we, even at this awful loss, three hundred of my men gone to death, and four hundred disabled. Well this is a nice situation to be sure, and we still opposed by those on that rise."

"I'm in favor for charging and driving them off." replied Penrod."

Angeline was too, or she couldn't go ahead. She sent Jack back o for the machine gun she left behind in her hurry, and then as they all proceeded cautiously from tree to tree leas leisurely up hill the Glandelinians recoiled before their ever increasing and advancing fire, and finally broke and fled, leaving even what was left of their small battery in possession of the others. This was a situation that profoundly interested the boys, and they were all heroes from beginning to end. During the lull, those that were killed were hastily buried of their own side, and then with the wounded taken between them who couldn't walk the advance was pushed on. However in their long opposed advance through the woods, the Glandelinians still fought on, and Angeline saw they were pushing forward from some point a sort of rifled cannon, mw ing it in front of a tall pine, and was preparing to discharge it. When Penrod had noticed this, he pressed the attack, and hurled grn grenades at the gun keeping the crew at a safe distance, and a few minutes later saw the gun deserted, and some of the surprised Glandelinians pro posed to surrender holding up their hands, but in answer the men led them to trees tied them there securely and went on. The Glandelinians saw that to oppose them was absolutely useless in the dark and they tried eve yt everything, anything to get a chance of retreating in safty to themr main position, there to be clear of these dangerous christians and to leave them go

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unmolested. The fighting therefore stopped, and the survivors of the bands under Angeline Richee were within sight of the shore, and at some distance saw a long black peculiar object on the water about a half mile away from their observation post. The tables had been turned. First the enemy had found the raft, they had rifled it, they had destroyed the provisions on board, had drunk up all the military wines found on board and had lost it again.

"As for you Jack" said Angeline Richee "It went against my heart to send you on the dangerous trip to try and regain it by a trick, but I did what I thought was best for all of us who have stood by our duty, and if you had not been successful, then whose fault would it have been!"

Now finding that the whole surviving Cok Companies were to be involved in the horrid disappointment they had prepared for the Glandelinians, con timudd topush on tw ard where the raft was seen to lay, and Penrod had taken Doldres, Angeline Richee, and others, ordering the whole force to make a diagonal across the stretch of land to be at hand beside the pines However other sections of glan delinian forces had the start on them, and Jack Saunders being fleet of foot, had been dispatched in front to do his best with his own machine gun squad. Then it had occured to the lad to work his machine guns from behind bushes, and he was so far successful, that soon the rest had emeup and were already ambushed before the arival of the enemy who had pressed on in spite of the machine gun squad. One platoon after another melted away but still they came on. Then from the rear there was a scream and something land d landed in the woods to the rear of the odefenders, there was an eruption, a terrific crash, and every one was showered with splintered sections of trees and clouds of earth debris.

"Ah." said Angeline Richee "It is fortunate for me that we have the woods to shelter us here. The glandelin ians would be able to cut us all to bits, and never give it a thought Penrod."

"Indeed not a thought." replied Penrod, cheerily as he worked one of the machine guns. By this time the Glandelinians came within easy range but this time they took defense behind a tree or all the trees rather and opened a withering rifle fire upon the defenders which was answered with great effect. On and on came the glan delinians though they fell by scores and to try to stop the foremost, one of the men blew up a tree with three grenades, and it fell crashin g among many of the Glandelinians causing great confusion but not any retreat. Penrod held a momentary council with Angeline and he decided the whole force should try to set out to go round by shore for an inlet where they could frustrate the Glandelinians till Gertrude sent more troops to their aid as she promised as now he said it was her proposed time to do so as she had told Jean.

This would a risky running fight of two or three quarters of a mile. Angeline Richee though she was almost killed already by fatigue, decided to make the diversion, and they were soon working their way carefully from tree to tree, but the christian soldiers who were nearest to the foe, were being picked off by tens all being killed, and the manoruvre had to be abandoned or the soldiers would all be annihilated. Before stopping they had passed out of a big depression in the land, and as they passed a two pointed hill, they could see many black objects appearing from above, and a figure in the lead. It was reinforcements fortunately for them, Gertrude had worsted her own enemies and was able to keep her promise and suddenly from all those black specks came a tumult of rifle re o reports and many specks of flame and at this Angeline Richee waved a handkerchief, and gave three hearty cheers, in which the voices of others joined as heartily as all the rest.

The Glandelinians meeting this fire on their rear were driven in to confusion, and abandoning the attack, fled in the greatest panic for cover far beyond the ran range. Angeline Richee was then enabled to push on, being forced on account of the serious situation to abandon her dead, and just as they came near to the shore where they met no further opposition; what should they meet but the raft, seemingly cruising by herself. It looked as if the flood had lifted her, and had there been much wind or a strong current they feared they should never have found her more or found her stranded beyond help but just as they thought these things, a light light appeared on board, a bright flare. They could then see the whole thing plain, and as it was there was little amiss beyond the wreck of the main sail, and a swarm of girl and boyscouts were voj on board with fifty guns trained tward the shore. Angeline Richee and all the rest marched around to the cove, the nearest point to have a chance of meetin g the raft. The raft was paddled ashore, and when it partly landed, Gertrude Angeline met them. Then came the reinforcement that had walloppe d the enemy on the rear. To Angel ine Richee the reception was like between mother and daughter, saying nothing of her mishap. At At Jacks polite sa uted Gertrude somewhat flushed.

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"Jack Saunders" she said "You're a prodigious hoob, and reckless dare devil- a monsterous dare devil." and she laughed. "What in the world did you do with the raft. I fought it where you had beached it. I am told by one of my couriers the enemy had taken it, and at dreadful risk, and after being attacked by a madman you recovered the raft. I am told I sho uld pr promote you. Well then I will as soon as I can get you the promotion papers. But the dead men you threw off you did not killbthem single handed did you."

"No the fe of your guns on the cliff did Miss Arenburg."

"Well then you are good just the same said, the bravest boyscout we have."

"Thank you kindly Miss Aronburg," replied Jack, again saluting.

"You do not need to thank me." ordd the girl chieftian. "It is your own doing. You done a deed something unusual. I thought we would never recover the raft, and seeing it impossession of the foe I tried to demolish it. I didn't know you was on board untill the enemy's flare or searchlight revealed the whole raft, and I saw you. So I stopped firing."

And thereupon all the girl and boyscout officers of Angelines bands went on the raft, all the rest staying on sh r shore in line formation to frustrate the enemy should the foe make another attack. This time the floor of the raft was covered with sand. Before a big open space on the raft lay many of Gert r Gertrudes own wounded, and before a camp fire on the sand lay captian George Anders, and in the far corner of the raft, only duskily fli k flickered over by the blaze, Jack himself beheld great heaps of grn gee grenades. That was captured from the enemy by Gertrudes men, in which conflict for both Gertrudes and Angelines, had cost already the lives of seventeen hundred men, and the wounding of nearly a thousand, and in this last contest alone. How many it had cost to the enemy in the smassing, what blood, fury and horror, what shot of cannon, what shame and ferocity perhaps no man alive can tell. Yet of The whole command there were still three thousand men left to repell any further row from the enemy under the leadership of Gertrude, Angeline Richeee, and Penrod---who had each taken their share in these dreadful war adventuss as each had hoped to share in vain the reward of success without losss.

"Come here Jack" said Jean. "You are a good boy in yer line but I don't think you or me will ever go through an adventure like this again. Is that you Penrod How did you succeed?"

"Right good Jean."

"Ah." said Gertrude herself, and that was all she said.

What a breakfast most of them who had not eaten had that early morning of August the 7th, with all the girl and boyscouts around Gertrude and Angeline Richee, and what a meal it was, with salted herr hering and other goods left on board the raft by the careless Glandelinians and what Angelines force had brought besides from the surrendered camp. Never were people gayer in spite of the perils all around. And there was one time reckless Jane Melfort sitting beck almostout of the firelight besides Mildred Maxwell, both eating heartily, prompt to spring forward when anything was wanted even joining quietly in their laughter the blend some polite obsequiou s Jane Melfort.

As it was before this event, Eleven Thirty that noight,!!!!))
George made his way up to the top of the hill, threw himself down under some big pine trees near the summit, and was soon fast asleep. Wh n he awoke it was already dark, and far away he heard some spirited and continual firing and the strange droning of machine gun guns. He lit his lantren as he was advised covered itup in his jacket, and then at the bidding of jean took his station at the highest point. He had plenty to think about. First he wondered why there was such a sound of firing, and also he was slightly alarmed as he wondered why the raft was moving of its own accord, and another thing, he would soon be backwith his friends, and Gertrudes force would soon be victorious. He had no reason to compa complain of the situation now, and besides it was painful to him to be seeing so many glandelinians massing against the very little friends who had befriended him who was a foreigner, and this did not cause him any delight, and therefore it was a source of pain. And b esides he knew the cause of landelinia,s the method of her way of carying on the war , and most of all he thought of his mother and father, of how she and he, and his sisters had perished in the flood as far as he believed, and blamed the Glandelinians, for it. The hours therefore passed quickly and he could scarcely believe it to be two o'clock when he s saw flashlights from the enemys position sweeping the flood, and there was the light of a fire which he had not expected, and saw Jean signalling "The enemy is running away with the raft. Warn Gertrude by signal."

He wondered whqt was wrong.He glan ed tward the flood, and the flashlights sho showed him she was correct.He rose to his feet, and talkin g the lantren did not hold it aloft as Gertrude had suggested, but started swim swining it producing a red coloring around the glass, then lowered it behin d a bush and twice raised it again.Gertrude saw the signal, she knew exactly the direction in which he indicated, and no sooner had he put down the lantren for the third time, than three flashes of light followed in close succession, and three of Gertrudes guns on the main hill opened on the raft, the shells exploding with crashing force and noise in its midst.Again they opened, one shell blowing up some of the hose stalls with splintering wood.Evecy gun hit the mark, and that accounted why the twenty dead Glandelininns were later found dead on board and their officer wounded.George knew that she was frustrated for the start propposed.Orders had been issued befoe he left that the oars of the boats were to be muffled that the chains at the entrance of the channel were to be removed, and the raft got into position,with shortened canbles for a start, and he wondered how it got into thepossession of the Glandelinians.

He could picture to himself as he had stoood there gazing into the darkness that the en men.would already be in the boats awaiting his signal, and as soon as it was seeen tho they would board it and began to tow the raft out of the watery cove.But to his dismay he had seen it adrift and therefore warned Gertrude.After the bombad bombardment he had seen the raft lose control of itselfas it were and apparently cruising backwards and forwards under easy sail some two miles off the entrance now under fire of the enemy, now under fire of Gertrudes guns, and,every one believed that if she could comemuch closer to the shore, the lookout with night glasses c could have reported that she would be seen within a quarter of a mile off the entrance and Gertrudes guns then could rake it for and aft.Half an hour had passed however before Jean had been well aware that the raft had been in possession of the foe was and wq was leaving the cove, now as the raft was under fire, G George fancdd fancied he heard the sound of musket shots from shore followed by many others, and he discovered some black object moving on the water, and believed that it was something unusual and that the enemy were discovering it as flash lights from the enemys position was directed tward it but failed to strike.A few minutes laterthere was two flashes some distance from a plateau, followed after an interval by the deep boom of guns, then came a broadside, followed by a steady fire of heavy guns.These evidently were fied from the Glandelinian position, either upon the little ba black speck in the water or upon Angeline Richees position further ff off, but no answering sounds came from Angelines position 4v ever re reaching his ear.He could see by the direction of the flashes that the enemy were firing on the raft, or the black speck.The firing continued for an hour, and then it ceased altogether.Suddenly a flashlight from Gertrudes position struck full upon the raft, and he saw it some two miles away, and some small dark object was climbing on board.There was a smaller craft close tothe raft, and the raft had suddenly ran it down.George believed Gertrudes guns had annihilated every one on buard, and the raft was making its escape by itself in the open water, and he wondered how, for the wind was exceedingly light.Some miles near er to the shore than the raft, a broken flag ship was visible coming down the water, a perfect wreck.The flood was boaring it down tward the raft but who w ever was getting on the raft did not see the danger, but as the raft and the wreck was fully three miles apart its chan e of overtaking it for a crash appeared to be slight, and it was starting to change its course and float sideways.

George waited an hour, and saw the raft suddenly to his surprise moving southward in good sail, the Glandelinian flag on it suddenly hauled down, and a white flag running up.He then proceeded at a leasurely pace twarddd the spot where he was t mee to.meet Jean.He was but abouid six me minutes at the spot agreed upon, when she s he saw her coming through the treeses.

"I heard nothing of the landing parties, yet Gertrudes force had disappared and gone tward the south in all haste,"he said as the girlscout approached.

"The reason is not far to search for"she replied."They did not land at all ,and and I did not much expect that they would.The raft started to move away by itself just before I lighted my warning w fire.I was lying down at the edge of the clifff, looking right down upon her decks and saw twenty Glandelinians aboard.Others left in a body rowing with muffled aors.I couldjust hear the sound of their talking as the rebels came on board.They had captured the raft.Some time later I saw some one whom I knew not cutting her hawsers and the raft went adrift.As soon as I had the fire alight, and you answered me Gertrude no doubt saw both our signals, and opened fire on the raft.Everything was quiet untilll I heard the boom of her first guns, then I heard"Forward"on hherpart of the hill

her part of the hill.I suppose one one s not a glandelinian had cut the raft

adrift knowing the glandelinians would not know how to man the sails. Of cou se Of course the sound of the guns did not com to the enemy under the shelter of the clifff as it did to me.Then came the sound of enemy guns and evidently both us, and the enemy had con centrated the fire on the raft, and some moving dark speck upon the waters. Afterwards there seemd to be fifty guns firing at once, and then three fou r or five broadsides close together, and I saw blacker splashes about the small speck, and flashing lights around it but which failed to reveal what it was, though no doubt the enemy with the night glasses were able to reveal what it was.A little later one of Gertrudes searchlights directed properly revealed the raft to my fulll view, and believe me a boyscout was climbing on board.Gertrude ceased firing, but the enemy did not, as the foe even when that white flag went up did not regard that in the least.Not long after I saw the raft gotting her-sails set, and she went off tward the south at a goood lively speseed.The Glandelinians guessed however that our craft being in the possession of som of us was making off for then you know the firing of the rebel cannon increased."

"They were too late to do anything, as I saw the raft go around a d head of land, Jean."

"Ah you have seen it too from the top of the hill.I did not think of that. What is your news!!!"

A wreck of a ship was following the raft and I feared there would be a crash.It was too far for me to see which way it was heading, but I believe she was two or three miles in the rear, and when I saw the raft get well out of gunshot range, she began to suddenly increase her lead andI wondered why..I watched the performance of the raft forone hour, and I believed that unless the wind freshened I believed the raft would continue on.

"The raft is very fast in a light wind like this."said Jean.

"Well if the floods current was faster and the floating shipwreck co should catch them, the one on board would know how to manuover out of its way Jean, as the ship was floating bulwarks first.So far I think one of our boyscouts played a trick on the enemy, and got away with the raft."

M"Maybe lad.We have had notmch luck so far though.T began to be a girl scout when I was eight years old but wasn't then allowed to go on any adventurers and not allowed to go near a battle field.At nine I had to go to a military girlscout training school in the army, and then half a year later I was able to do as I'm doing now.I did not report myself to the headmilitary school however for I had no wish to do any severe work, and yet this is worst than anything I had ex ecte expec y expected to go through. Yet I have not made much by it.If we ever get back to any christian army, I'll keep within its confines for good.No more long distanced scouting adventures for me.I suppose as there are no accursed Glandelinians in sight we may as well go down to the cove now lad.They are soon to come back, whether they get hold of the raft or not, and wemust rejoin them."

"Oh yes we shall he safe now.We will stand on the shore when they come in. And its slightly starting to get a little lighter.When the first who return see that we are boy and girl there's no chance of their mistaking us as foes and opening fire.We can go up occassionally to the cliff and watch them."

It was not untill it began to grow daylight in earen earnest that the raft was seen approaching the cove, and it was in possession of Gertrude and her followers.

"She will only take four or five minutes to work it in again!"Jean said, "and they will not likely to land unless she sends a force to aid Angeline Richees.All their force aw are away already trying to help her through the enemys linex lines.I should think we ought to be on the way by this noon.Either she has already rescued Angeline Richee before it got lighter, which I don't think likely though I hope so--or she may have given the enemy the slip during the night:In that case we might look for them at any moment for Penrod went to loate her with his force you know since we vanquished the foe at our part."

As Jean predicted, the raft was seen by the aid of the twilight about less than two miles away.

"We may as well hoist a white flag,Jean. The girlscout offic sers on board will be savage that the Glandelinians caused them all this trouble, and if the foremost don't know us at first we might find things hopping."

George ran down to one of the smallstorehouse s, hold hold of a sheet and a long pole, and q a white flag was soon hoisted on the top of the cliff. Five minutes later two boats were seen rowing off from the raft.Jean and George took theirplaces on the shore. When the boat reached the cove the order was given for the men to lay on their oars.George shouted at the top of his voice;

"You can com on sir.We are friends...."*

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The order therefore was given to row on , and Gertrude and her boy companion at once went down to meet them at the end of the cove.Th A captian was in the stern of his own boat while a young lieutenant held the lines in the other boat.

."I understand now"said the captian, as he stepped ashore.You are the boy who is German by speech, and Jean is with you.!"

"I am German by birth sir.You remember I was on board a sailing craft when we were run down by the raft in the dark.I believe my parents and brother and sisters died but I clung to the railing and was brought on board."

"But you are not a boyscout I see..."""said the captian abruptly.

"No sir, but in Germany I had had some boyscout schooling."

"And how did it come that Jean is with you alone.How is it you two were left behind!" he asked.

"We were round the other side of the cliff watching the raft, and the enemy "And then he told of all of Gertrudes plans and orders, and how she and he had carried them out."

"Have you done any fighting yet with the enemy?" the captian asked.

"Not yet sir.But I would like to.We have exchanged shots with the enemy on shore sinced we went.The enemy fired one broadside upon the raft which drew off out of range a good deal damaged.We then secured a new mast by overhauling a floating wreck of a ship as I believe you know full well."

"Well you are right lad"said the captian.As to one fact we have captured prisoners and might keep them with us."

"I hope not sir."George pleaded."I'm a foreigner and a stranger here sir, but I know the Glandelinians well.If we were near our army it might be all right.But on our raft its dangerous.They might do something ."

The captians face relaxed into a m smile."I see you are a sort of a war lawyer.Well we shall see about disposing of the prisoners.What is there left in these storehouses.Gertrudes decides to overhaul them before we go."

"A good quantity of things sir, deserted by the enemy.They did not take away a single thing with them when we routed them during their last attack upon our rear.I believe they have plenty of munitions and privisions here."

"That is satisfactory at any rate." the captian said.

ThThen he ordered some of his officers and men to take a look round the storehouses and the camp, and see if there was anything worth taking away bes ides the munitions.Then he said"Are you quite sure lad, that you are the only two child scouts on this shore."

"I cannot say that exactly sir."The orfers were for all to embark upon our raft last night,and so far as I know none of them were left behind but us, when Gertrude went after the rest and sent the rest to aid Angeline Richoes.We have been here for ten hours now, and have seen no one but skulking glandeliniens so Indo not think any one else of our boys or girls hv have been left.

"How did you get rescued and brought on board the raft."Tthe captian asked."I suppose you cannot speak Abbisannian."!

"I couldn't speak any Abbisannian when I was first brought aboard sir but Ipicked up a good deal during the trip.Jean speaks german pre pretty well.he was in Germany too she told me for three years with her parents on a sight seeing tour, and learned it theresa, and it was that therefore which caused her to speak to me directly she had got me on board,for no one else underted understood me.So she set to work at once to help me learn your language, so that I could get along.Gertrude was very kind tooo.She said as I had been picked up a refugee of the flood, and as I would prove my character she would not treat me as a prisoner, though she generally does to foriegners, but she expected me to make myself useful,and of course I do so.It is the only way to get along you know."

"This is a likely place these Glandelinians had on shore here."said the captian smiling, and looking round. "I suppose in these two huts the store keepers lived, stopping behind to look after things while the Glandelin ian army lay close by.And yet our raft arived here almost in time to be captured. We noatr floated into a trap and didn't know it.I was puzzled in the morning yesterday, when I saw something fishy on shore.What glandelinian army was it for sure Manleys or Mylatses?"

"We found for truth it was that of Mylatses's"said Jean."First we thought it was Manleys. The enemy went at us in a number I believe of four thousand, and eight thousand against Angelines force.On the plateau there is thirteen guns."

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Do"o you know whether he had intended to go off with his army, or whether he is going to remain here and cent concentrate a position.!"

"From what I gathered from their movements sir, I believe the army is going to move on north.They did not mass any general batteries on the hills and they moved off with most of the valuable stuff.There was a great deal of firing to the far north, as if a battle raged but what the trouble was I really do not know.We can load up our raft too from the stuff here if it'll not be too heavy for it.I do not know whether the Glandelinian army is going to remain here for a time, but I should rather think that now the forest fires are moving forward tward that plateau where the enemy batteries are, and that we have raided their places the army thinking its the main army of general Vivianis may not remain here, for I do not think it intended to do so long in the first place.I know that the army had its destination to the northwest,and I believe as Gertrude said, Mylatse is moving on Sanitary Creek."

"In that case, our dangerous expedition has been more satisfactory than I ever could have expected"said the captian."We shall have discovered and destroyed their shoreard depot here, a captured forour own use for our continued trip some valuable stuff here, and frustrated a good size Glandelinian force who had tried to capture or annihilate us in the bargain to say nothing of rescueing Angeline Richoes which has been accomplished but not without some bad loss.Well sir,"he continued as one of the officers came bad back from the storehouses and camp,"what is your report?"

"Not only will it take a very long time to go through the whole sir, but I should say if we had a hundred rafts ofour size we could not take half of it away as there's too much.We sure have taken a valuable prize from the enemy.Parts of the goods consist of food and rum and other l liquors which we do not need. All the rest is of uniforms home producings and furnitures. We need only take the munitions, and food stuffs,and destroy the rewtrest."

"That is most satisfactory and we will do that, sir, and we shan't have our terrible exerience here for nothing.Ah here comes the othe other boats.

As he spoke, three other boats, and cutters belonging to the raft, the cutters having been captured, dashed into the harvo cove and in a minute or two reached the landing place.

"So you succeeded in rescuing Angeline Richoes bands, Captian Jones" said Minnie Saunders."

"Yes, and troubled the enemy confound them."said the captian.The enemy got away,and fairly outran my troops in their panic.I am afraid however we have made rather a mess of the whole affair, though we acted for the very best,and I do not see how we could have done otherwise.however I have learned that the flood is full of wreckage but I hope we won't have much trouble from them.Some wreck of a ship missed the raft afterall when the boy was on it alone last night.So we did not do so badly for we can report to Gertrude that we have found Angeline Richoes, rewo rewo rescued Herand destroyed the various glandelinians meats there, and I fancy fromwhat my lieutenant sa s says we have made a very good captue capture, enough to take a hundred rafts like ours to fill up.We will need however to take what food stuffs we can and the arms andmunitions,and the smaller artillery.We can make use of them."

"That will therefore be some great consolation for our trip." the other said laughing"nut.I surely would give my shars ut of it if I could but come up to me emperor ,ivians army, instead of going through such dastardly adventures as now.How did Jean and the boy get left behind!"

"They were doing some fancy signalling for Gertrude.One is the german lad, who with his parents was in a o boat w we run down in the flood a couple of nights ago and who + dare say wishes to be one of the boyscouts.It seems that is he is a bright likely lad too, and his story is clear enough. The girl isone ofour superios superiors.The little girl has been particularly kind to the boy scout, and therefore I think there is something in his words.Now we can bring them both saftly aboard the raft while we secured at the inlet.At one time the boy as he told mewas a prisoner among the Glandelinians under "Jackass" Manley and therefore he had slightly pickedup our language and he by doing this act for Gertrude may be able to get into the boy scout force with her help without difficulty."

"What are you thinking of doing with all this provisions."The major asked, pointing to the storehouses.

"I think we'll take the munitions and the food provisions away with us. We can't take every thing on board the raft, and therefore what we can't take off we'll destroy.Besides we can't turn the raft into a store house, and if we did that we would have to stop here untill it is all carried away, and that would take a month.Therefore we'll take what we can and burn or blow up

the storehouses afterwards.."
"Then by all means let us load up." the Major said it.I xonstwinly have no wuwish to be kept here for o over six weeks or a couple of months with such perils hovering around, and the way it feels and smells the region can endanger us all with deadly fevers.I will go out and bring the bigger boats at once."
"The sooner the better Major.At once I well set a number of boats to take soundings here, and in the cove.If we can get the raft all the way in, it would save us a lot of trouble ane time.."
It was found that the cove and the channel through to it, cone contained deep water to the very edge of the shores so that there was no danger of the raft being grounded. The width of the shores betweeen however was onl only sufficient enough to let her through, and therefore the raft was towed body in.The next hour though still under shore fire from a distance the work of shipping the eatables andmunitions commenced,, but they observed that so large was the quanity of the gooods stored up, that if thd they took six days of hard work, to Z fill or cover sixteen big rafts like thier's they would not but have started.This shows that despi e the difficulty and the frightful experience she and her followers had, nevertheless Gertrude sure did capture alot ofprivosnprovisions.The men however did not grudge the trouble of being forced to leave the majority behind, but the foood and the munitions and artillery, and small arms were taken aboard.
"I hope we shall not get in range of those Glan delinian batteries on shore." Gertrude said, comingup in her own boat to view the work, and looking with som disgust at the already loaded raft."I think we better stop now, as what we have brought on board would last us six months, at heavy guittony meals and it had brought the raftt nearly two feet lower in the water as if she was laden down like a collier, and if we take too much on we might find our raft,"swimming like a rock" in no time."
"Yes her wings are clipped for the present." the captiqn said."We have carr car i carried off the pick of the boooty wi with us and we will have to be content, as we cannot take all or other wise our raft won't float.Yet it is the best haul any one of us have ever made since the war began.As a rule the most we can hope for if what we obtain on a forage or an attack upon a isolated t camp,and they generallly go for n x next to nothing. I certainly never believed we should ever be making such a haul as this, as in reality we are fugitives of the fire, ad the ene and the enemy.I suppose the enemy was going to camp here."
.The captian had George the German boy and Jean taken aboard the raft,and the boy still showed his same good nature, his willingness to lend a hand and make himself usel useful in any way, and his growig knowledge of their language made him indeed a favorite with them......When all the goods which w could be taken with safty to the raft, were therefore on board, fire was applied to the storehouses and th the huts.The raft then was towed out of the harbor, n and hoisting sail, made for the open flood waters to resume the course northward.The winds were still light and they were for the time being stalled.
The boy had in the meantime watched every one of the men at work for the transportation of all the food stuffs and minuti munitions near a mile by lano land to the beach and then onto the raft was a con siderable task for even so many men.The Glandelinians who were still in sposition a t a didistance did not greatly trouble them, except sniping some times and occassionally qn and the sentries placed on du-ty were able to insure any of them from any surprise of a sudden onslaught, and the boy thought that besidew these Glandelinians for the time being had had enough of firghith fighting for a while.Therefore the work had pushed on briskly.Captian Gray and George Hune superintended the loading and movements of the boats, while the rest carried the stuff on their shoulders or in boxes.A good sized boxf ll of food even made a goodload for a grown man or two to carry a mile, one even that he was glad to walk slowly with.For the part of the boy and girlscouts, as they were not big enough to do much carrying, a great number of them were kept busy for threeee hours packing what was to be taken into boxes and sacks or bags, and so forth.
"It was a strange collection indeed(you are in need).There was buscuits, soldiers hard tack, cannnes canned beans, and every kind of canned goods a person can think of, gold coins, money of all Nationalities even Oriential and the children wondered where the glandelinians had got these.For they found in the camp every variety of money in the world that was in that coll ection, and for number they were as it seemed like Autumn leaves, so that their backs ached with stopp ing stoopon stooping and their fingers with sorting them out.

Minute after minute this work had continued on, and on, on, and by that time of two hours work a great fortune h had been stowed aboard the raft,, and all this time of the raiding of the storehouses and the camp, they had not seen anything of the glandelinian soldiery .At last they were about to fin ish the the work, and Mary Turnor and others were stoiling on the top of the hill as guards to wat h watch the emeny, when out fr m from the thick darkn ess of a portion of the fo est forest below, the wind brought them a a noise that sounded like between the weird cry of a ghost and the yells of the demons.It was only a an snatch that req reached their ears followed by the former sil ence.
"Heaven forgi ve them"said one of the boyscouts"But it is the Glandelinians."
"All upto something sir." struck inthe voice of one of the girlscou ts behind. George you are sure you know what they mean.?"
George the little German lad/ was allowed his entireliberty, and was as privileged as any of the others.Indeed it was remarkable how he bore all the hardships, and with wh what unwearied poi politeness he kept on trying to please all.Yet none treated him better than little Jean, who was terribly afraid to leave him out of her sight,who also had reallly something to thank him for, although for that matter, she had reason to thinkworst too the of the Glandelinians who might be planning a fresh treachery upon her and her followers.Jean answeredvhim; as he said yes ;.
"Are those Glandelinians drunk or raving George."
"They surely are Jean ."Replied George,"and preciouslittle odds I'm thinking to you and me.."
"I suppose you would hardly call the Glandelinians human."returned Jean" Yet my feelings may surprise you Goerge.If I were sure any onf of them nearest were lying wounded----I should take the risk of leaving this camp and at whatever risk take them the assistance they need." in medicines and bandages for their wounds."
"Asking your pardon, Jean you would be foolish if you did."quote George."You would lose your preciouslife Jean.Though I'm a foriegn born boy and y not yet in the scouts Regiment by enlistment, I am nevertheless on your side now, hand and finger, and I shouldn't wish tosee you get killed, or our parties ambushed, let alone yourself, seeing what I surely owe you.The Glandelinians are as treacherous as phanters and they wouldn't trust y u you no more than we would them."
." oNo you're right."said Jean."you are the boy to keep your word for I see that."
Well it was hoped that this would be the last seen of these farce Glandelinians.Only once or twice they heard a roll of musketry, and supposed the glandelinians to be firiy firing on the parties at a distance.Q council was held before the departure, and it was decided that they must leave the region entirely to the huge glee of most of themen soldiers,and with the strong approval of the others.They had secured a got stock of war munitions a lot of different medin medicines, and other necessities, besides tools and lots of tobaco for the men who smoked. This was about their last doing in this dangerous location,and they new they m st moveoas the forest fire was sweeping up.Before that, they had got everything of value stowed, and had shipped enough wine and water, and plenty of meat in case of any distress, and at last tward eight oclock, they weighed ac anchor, which was about all they could manage, n and started out of the cove,the same colors of Abbieann iq flyingthat Angeline Riches had flown and fought under at the stockades..However How However the Glandelinianamust have been watching them closer than they thoughtfor, and they soon saw this.For coming through tye the narrows they had to first lie very near the southernport point of the flood shore and they saw a line of graycoated soldiers kneeling together on a long spit of sand with their muskets raised at the readt and sent a rolling volley of shots whistling over the heads of the others, who were standing close by and through the main sail.The glandelinians on shore kept up the fire with grape and shrapnell from a further distance and all those on board the raft had to keep under cover of the stalls untill the raft had gone beyond range,and when next George looked, the Glandelinians were shoving out in boats. Gertrude herself trained a gun at the nearest of the boats showing out of the water and she herself sent a shot crashing through it, and twenty men were at once floundering in the water.That was at least the end of that, and before fifteen after eight to Georges great joy, the raft was beyond range and persuit. From their dreadful losses Gertrude noticed she was so short of men that every one on board had to bear a han d---only wounded Mildred Maxwell lying on a mattress, and giving her own orders, for though greatly recovered since that night she was stillll in want of quiet.They laid the head of the raft for the nearest landp landing so so spot they could find for they feared they could not risk the trip down the flood without more caution, and so m ny of

the boy and grlscouts too were wounded, that those who were compelled towork were well worn out before nine oclock, and they had to desist and let the raft drift for itself..To prevent the raft from drifting in the wrong direction while they rested, they cast anchor.Despite the suffering of m ny of the wounded, the sight of so many good humored faces never theless, the taste of the fruits found in the enemy camp, and above all the fact, that the sun was trying to shine through the smoke haze far in the sky made a most charming contrast to their dark and bloody sojourn on the landscape that night.Here during the stop Gertrude soon weighed anchor again, and traveled along shore till she got to the spot where she knew Angeline R chee was and sent her the troops that brought her rescue, and on board the raft as mentioned before, with further dreadful loss to the enemy.Then they all being on board had so agreeable a time that the sun was shining a little better when they started off again.

Of course George made a wonderful confession to Angeline Richee, and that was Jack saunders was not gone as she supposed but had w been still held a prisoner with Gertrudes band on shore. Yet who could say that all the rest would have been pleased if he had been taken away by the enemy as no one loves or respects a coward.Well to make it short, Gertrude in taking the roll call discovered that only less than three thousand of her men escort had been killed , and about nearly four thousand among them were all wounded and in suffering on the raft,and it was all many of the girlscouts who knew something about nursing could do for them.Their doctor was gone, having been j killed, Mary Glorinia could not helpno one as she too was severely wounded, and she saw that fifty of her boyscouts had gone to their deaths in the fatal encounter Angeline Richee had with so dreadful a foe.The Glandelinians she knew had done them with a vengeance that no one could comprehend.All of them had an ampl shae share of theprivions provisions.On her going forth again Gertrude Angeline during the trip for two or three miles to get even open shell fire upon the shore but however recieved no reply.

The Glandelinian position for all she knows may lie thorw,and certainly they shallLie there for her.Oxen and wain-ropes would not bring her back again to that accursed land now,and always after that the worst dreams Angeline Richee ever would have when she heard the floods roaring along the shore there, or start upright in bed, with the sharp devil Glandelinian yell stilllringing in her ears....

"I'll bet these Glandelinians are in a towering rage at our outwitting them." Gertrude said to Angeline Richee. "But I fancy too they will change their tone pretty quickly when they learn what we have taken on board from their camp.We I believe have made ourselves some of the most record breaking raiders o in the country."

Angeline Richee agreed with her.Then she approached where George Zimmermann the german boy was sitting.

"I suppose you will want some chance to be a boyscout in our command young man."she said."I being the head one here will authorise you as one as soon as Gertrude Angeline can secure for you the papers from some of the Vivian Girl Princesses or Emperor Vivian their father.I will however be security and the responsibility for the producing of your enlistment papers as soon as it comes."

"I am very much obliged to you miss Richee." George replied."I know lots of military ways having been a scout in Germany.I have also learned to be pretty handy on board of boats and ships, know lots of army life.Besides I don't want to inconvience my own friends, and therefore I'll accept yout propositio; proposition directly I get the papers.The Glandelinians have caused your country trouble enough as it is, and I would like to see her get put in her proper place.I have never in my life read of any nation fighting a war in this fashion.It's as it seems to me a war against, Christianity Humanity, civilization, nature,, heaven and innocent children all all Religions combined."

"You are right my lad."Miss Richee said."I like your spirit.Having you training enough, so we won't have toweste time to drill you while you are waiting for your emlistment papers?"

"Yess Miss Aron Richee, thank you very much.I know enough to be an officer, and I wasone over German boyscouts.Their drills Miss Richee is the same as your's. Befoe I was captured by the enemy one of the Angelinian captians said I had fi fairly earned my reputation, and that if I was a man I'd have Napoleon beat."

Angeline Richee laughed.

"If we had every General like a Napoleon or a George Washi n gton or a Marion, or a Wayne or so forth we would have had Glandelinia on hor knees long ago."she said."Your Angelinian captian must have been a good sort of a fellow.Well, so long, and you won't need to work to day.Better get some sleep as you were up nearly all night."

George however felt so excited over the outcome of the night, that he didn't feel sleepy, and besides he had had som chance to sleep from eight to two before he awoke to do any signalling.However he went into his tent , while Jean went elsewhere to inquite about other orders.George was greatly amused at the aspect of the raft by daylight, crowded with chattering boys and girlscouts in gua gaudy colored uniforms.The girls were dressed almost like Jockeys and did not resemble scouts one bit but for their weapons.The outlay of the raid upon th e two camps, by Gertrude and Angeline Richee brought them an almost unlimited supply of fruit, and George and Jean sat down on a log of wood and for breakfast enjoyed a feast of p pine apples, bananas and custard apples.

"As long as I live I shall never forget your kind kindness, Jean "he said in Abbiesnnian,"and if I ever survive the war too and you also, we can again always renew our friendshup and talk over our adventues."

"As for the kindness it is nothing."Jean replied"And besides that you saved my life from that strange madman.I dreamed already of that horrible man already.And it was really owing to you that I or all the rest of us are reallly here now.If it hand't been for you I should not have been chosen to stop behind and do the signalling that saved us all.And in the next place George it is your doing that we are free to start down the waters at once to day.Why my parents will be ready to jump for joy, when some day when I'm on a furlough she sees me arive, and she will hardly believe me when I tell her that foriegners are not so bad after all, and she will be most surprised at that andmost of all when I tell her that is owning g to a young German boy I fished on board the raft on that dark night."

"Well Jean, we won't dispute as to whdh of us two happens to owe the other most. Anyhow except as to my friends, I'm not sory to make the trip on this excellent and most wonderful raftbY h ever saw or r a read of.I don't even believe an ocean storm could injure it.I have already seen a lot of life and adventure, and have made the first most thrilling adventure in my life, and I have learned so much of this kind of work, that if I am changed from company to company I will be able to work my way anywhere in the boy scout regiments in the future."

As the boy did not believe he needed any sleep for the time being he was soon hard at work assisting at the various work that waw necessarily assigned to hi him.He was startled by the sound of a heavy gun.It was answered presently by many other guns at different locations, and five minutes afterwards the distant cannonading had swelled to a prolonged roar.Every one on board was surprised thinking the raft was fired upon, and every one were gazing in surprise in the direction of the sound of the cannonade, and exchangingbguesses as to its cause.They had had recently great news of some battle being fought somewhere where a Glan delinian army had surrendered, but then this sounded too severe for any cause as of their raft being under fire.

However knowing that something was up and believing that a christian army was massing on the Glandelinian army they had just escaped, the whole big gang on board the raft burst into a hearty cheer(Battle of Sanitary creek, see next two chapters following next after this.) There had come to them through news papers they had secured t in theyGlandelinian camps surprising news.It wq was known that up northwest, general Concentinian Aronburg was gradually driving back the Glandelinian Marshalls near the devastated Bengall County,and that other new christian armies were marched marchin g tward Vivian Wickey, and that two glandelinian armies had fallen to ruin, six was captured without a battle, and that Emperor vivian and His brother were concentrating in h a heavy numbers, and in strong unassailableposition s were concentrating in h a heavy numbers, and in strong unassailableposition s near Evangeline St Claire on Santa Marie's Heights.It was seen that many of the christian generals and their armies were inci invincible.

Two hous later George was relieved of his work by Jack Sanders, and he asked the German lad;

"Going back to a military school when you can I suppose , young foriegner?"

"No I don't think I am going back to any military school." George said with a smile. At least not to the sort of military schools you mean, though I have been learning too.When I was pickedup I had before the accident arived from a Glandelinian prison camp."

"Indeed,"the boy said, scr scruntinisingly him closely."No one told me that."I see you got a glandelinian prison p mark onyour arm now that I look at you, but som how or other I should not have ever suspected you ever with out any cause been among the Glandelinians.Were you a slave?"

"Well I was not exactly a slave, though I may say I was forced to work like one, though I was treated more as a prisoner.That was my first experience, and I supposeone takes much longer than that to get along to know what child slaves are.I was not always allowed near them."

"Been a prisoner among the Glandelinians, you a foriegner?That's strange! Then I suppose you have been getting into some scrape with them young sir, or did some spying on them, for some friends, tried to run away and then got captured, for from your appearance, you would hardly have been a prisoner otherwise.But I suppose after your experiences you will be inclined to put up with any disagreeables you may have had in the army rather than try spying onbthe Glandelinians again."?

"You are mistaken."Ge r George said with a laugh."I did not spy on them. I was taken awa awayxwhen my home was raided."

"Do you mean to say thevGlandelinians came to Germany to raid your home?"

"No.In Calverinia."

"Kidnapped."the boyscout said in surprise."

"No."And then George told the whole story of how it happened, and finished with his escapade, and then going down flood with his para parents and then ended with-"and the fact is you know, as well as others how my boat was run down by the big wreck of a ship that struck your raft, that I was hauled on board, and that here I have been ever since."

"Yes we well know that"said Jack."How long ago is it since you first came to this country."?

"About five years ago." George replied.

"And you desire to become a boyscout in ours or any Regiment you can get to."?

"Yes sir.Do you know whether she can do it, since the Vivian Girl Princesses are missing?" George asked eagerly.

"I believe that she can do so, although of course she will have to do a good deal of work to get the papers produced.I haven't the pleasure of knowing the Vivian Girls personally, but many friends of mine are well acquainted withthem, and so is my sisters.I heard the matter talked about early this morning.And also Jack Evans is a friend of the Vivian Girls.He could make out the papers, and I believe Angeline Richee intends to ask him or wmperor Vivian, if they are still missing.But I believe they will soon be located. Some of them have been discovered by spies within the Glandelinian camps amand elsewhere, and they said they have been seprated but that it'll take a miracle to rescue them.Do you know Jack Evans George?"

"Yes I know him." George put in. "I was brought before him after I was saved from the Glandelinian camps by one of the Vivian Girls in disguise as a slave."

"Well do concerning the Princesses, the whole country has not altogether abandoned hope, and every one still clings to the idea that they will be found and as they escaped so often, it is believed they are staying for some purpose in the glandelinian camps or wherever they are for the sake of their cause.At least noone will give up any hope untill ample time has elasped for better news to come in.At least if anything happns to them, I'll feel sory for all the Glandelinian armies. Emperor Vivian is a terrible man, now and if he had his way the Glandelinian armies would recieve no quarter."

"I would bevery glad of that." George said bitterly."It has been a great trouble to me that these Glandelinians have made disasters of these kinds as I'm very sure they did.I should not havewminded been carried away so much if I have had a chance to looking into the trouble myself, but I never did have a chance, ad yet I was near Abbieann when that beautiful city went under water."

"But how did you escape the facts of so awful a disaster and do not perish!" was you on high ground?"

"Well Master Jack, it is rather a long story." George said modestly

CHAPTER TWENTY THIRD

A COMMISSION.
A NEW SCENE OF HORROR. A FORREST BURNED AND ITS REMAINS BURIED IN ASHES. PROGRESS OF THE MOST FAMOUR FOREST FIRE HORROR EVER WRITTEN.

2 "All the better"Jack replied."We have We have a long durney before us, and if it is a mighty long one your story will help pass the time, so please don't cut it short or try to, but let me have it in full."

George thereupon told the story, which lasted about an hour.

"Well that is an adventure well worth going through."Jack said,"And it was well for you George that in such perils and so forth youpossessed good spirits and great courage.A boy who also is cheerful and willing under great difficulties will always mark his way into the world, while one who repines and kicks against his and the fate of others only makes it harder for him and themselves. .I have no doubt also when you got aboard this raft,that instead of taking matters coolly when you found yourself on board you had therefore fretted and sulked, our boys would have made you a drudge or a prisonerer prisoner and you might have been kicked and cuffed by every one on board.And you would not have had the chance of being chosen to make the signal that Gertrude wanted, and you would now be leading the life of a dog on board this raft. Cheerfulness and willingness are indeed two of the best and greatest watchwords of success in life, and certainly you have found it so."

It was eleven oclockwhen it was decided to lift anchor once more and the raft again slowly started on its way,. Jack offered to take George before Gertrude, and have himtell her what he knew of the disaster at Abbieann for that would be in a measure one help for the Vivian girls should they return. Angeline Jennings wasjust rising from her early dinner at the mess, she too having declined to sleep during the day, when Jack and George arived at the mess tent, and after congratulating the lad for his information she willingly agreed to have him bring his story up to Gertrude.A moments walk acrosss the big raft brought him before the tent of Gertrudes.At her bidding George remained outside, while jack and Jennings entered.Angeline Jennings lost no time in opening the subject.

"I have brought my friend Jack Splatt Sanders because he has happened to hear some news that I think may help you to bear upon the suv subject that you and violet-, and her sisters have most at heart."

"The Abbieann disaster, he knows about it too?" Gertrude exclaimed clasping her hands.

"We think it may refer to th at all right, Captian Arenburg" Angeline Jennings said."We have a boy here who has been n a near the scene when it happened, which corresponds pretty well, I think with some clue which you and the Vivian Girls might try to trace."

"Just the same thing." Gertrude said."Did they not say the name of the boy!!!!""

"Well yes.The name as far as we know it, was the same as the boy we had picked up from the water."

"But I'm afraid I'll doubt that." said Gertrude kind of sheepishly."A foriegner cannot know about what happened at Abbieann I'm sure...."""""""""

"I believe there is not the slightest doubt about it."said Angeline Jennings respectufilly respectfully."I also consider you may quite set your ki mind at ease, for I have no doubt whatever and neither has Jack here that he has some very reliable informatio n. He was so he says only a few miles away in some highland town when the disaster occured, and he saw it from his window which he says went out from the concussion. I believe we have i picked up a fortune for our cause in him."

Gertrude for the moment was so much over come, that she sank into a chair and sat for a short time with her face in her hand, crying happy happy tears and thanking Our Blessed Lord for His Mercy.Then with a great efffort she aroused herself.

"You will excuse my emotion, "she said" but I'm sure you can reallly understand my feelings.I am thankful indeed for the news you have brought me. I nor poor Violet, and her sisters have never ceased for a moment to hope that we can find some clue as to what was the cause of the disaster, but the knowledge that it is so, that we have rescued a boy with such information if for the moment overpowering.And where was he when he saw the disaster?

"How long ago do you think he may have exprisnced it, and can he accurately say what date and month it really happened, whether it was reallly June?"

"Well Miss Aronburg"said Jack himself hesitating a little,"he says he was in bed that night, but it being uncomforatably warm he was not able to get any sleep, and therefore he sat up to read.He told me the clock in his room said two minutes to Twelve when the first shock came....".

"""Then in that case." Gertrude cried"he may be able to give me me good details indeed. Perhaps,perhaps------"and she paused and looked from one to the other. "But where is he.Didn't you bring him?" she finished.

"Yes, I'll bring him at once."

No word was needed.Angeline Jennings went out and callled George, and in a nother minute he was standing before her.He was about to salute, when she smiled and said"not yet boy"you're not in uniform.Then she poured out question after question but Jack for a moment couldn't think of narrating the story as he wished.He first related all his adventures to her, who was surprised at his story.

"I suppose my poor parents was n ever heard of since the crash Miss Aronburg."

"No George.I have sent some of the expert men to locate them but they must have perished.I was afraid they had gone straight down, and you know none of us heard any cry for help.They must have perished in the collission."

The boy then gave a detail of his witnessing the ex:l explosion, which words at first were the same testimony of the explosions alone,and which would have been somewhat discouraging to her if he had not told the same thing to jack which he ended with"and Miss Aronb rg I'm blaming no body unless it can be proved, but my parents, and Uncle, and my little sister before she died, saw many queer men around the neighborhood for six months at some suspicious work before the explosions.A day before the crashes, they had all disappeared."

"I must telegraph to day to Miss Jennie Turner"she said"That'll be information you know she can communicate with Emperor Vivian.She had written to me several times, and she's the best girl known.You must know her when we see her.She had all along said that she believed some o ne would turn up some of these days with good information, and therefore she was right, and the probabilities in favor of your being able to discover this were great,especially as your parents ad little sister had kept their eyes open.Do not worry about them either George.I've a feeling, they did not perish and such feelings be never decieved me.They might have swam to shore somewhere

"I hope we will not need to meeting with glandelinians down shore again." said George mufully."I was surely glad to back back on the raft again wo with your people Miss Gertrude, and it will be very h hard if we have to have a settlement with Glandelinians again."

"I am sure we will not be so unreasonable as to want to take such chances for new meetings." Gertrude said.

"And do I need to go to any school to be a boyscout Miss Aronburg.?"

"Not now certainly George.We'll have stirring adventures again of some kind shortly, besides you know, Jean told me you know lots of military affairs, and that you need not to be trained."

"That's right Miss Aronburg.It's high time I though a foriegner was doing something for your country.Besides after having my second experience since last night I shouldn't like to settle down to any military lessons."

"Well we must think about it George.You know at first not knowing what kind of a boy you might be I consented greatly against my will, not to make you a prisoner, and now since I know you I'm glad I didn't, and I'm not going to draw back from that again.But as to your being a boyscout I nor Miss Richee cannot do e thing I'm sure untill Violet, and her sisters are found, for no one else will do it.You areyou say about twelve, and therefore that is just right, you being a scout in Germany, and we have lots of boys who have even recieved a commission as an officer of boyscouts at an earlier age than yours.In one of her leters Miss Turner said that as soon as she reached wmpror vivians army she would take the matter in hand about the disappearance of the seven Princesesss, and though I have good interest in other quarters, and quite a pullwith all the milit ary, being the main friend of the Vivian Girls, and could probably manage part of it, Violet and her sisters would have need to sign their names to the papers or it would notpull through for you. And that is not because your oriegn either.That goes for even our own boys who desire to become one.It's hard to get in you know, they got to have their bravery proved, their knowledge of Geography, and the country andmany others things, and then its alot of red tape.But as soon as they come back Miss Turner will arrange it when I write to her, and I and you too I know shall be grateful to her for doing so...."

That will be first rate Miss Aronburg" George said in delight."I thought if I was in your army even as a refugee for another year I might get my inlestiment papers but of course it would be much better if you or Miss Richee could did it for me."

For the next few minutes after his interview with Gertrude George was a "hero" among his new found boy and girlscout friends, and had to tell his story so often that at last he told Miss Aronburg when he happened to cross her that if it was for the flood he might dive out of sight to get out of telling the story so often as his voice was becoming paralized.

"You won't be called upon to do that." she said smiling"For this telegram tt hat I have just opened is just from a boyfriend of mine known as Radcliffe and he tells me if he could he would come to see you f but he thinks its impossible to find us himself without a guide."

"Radcliff"repeated George in sise"R adcliffe.Radcliffe You don't mean o to say your sister in duisguse---!"G Gertrude gave him a warning festure which checked him and looked around but no one had been near enough to overhear.

"I don't know how you came to find it out"she finally said-"But say nothing about it.If she finds her secret of disguise is out she'll turn the armies upside down to find out who let u out the se secret, and woe tbe to the party.But you don't mean to say you know Radcliffe after traveling as much as you did."

"Yes."an swered George surprised still more."And I am very glad"He's a loving friend of Penrod."

"He asked me in his letter."Gertrude said with a passing smile of amuse ment"If I am planning to to take in Jennie turner on the same expedition that Violet, ad her sisters had planned.He says she has never been so long from the army before as she was this time, and that it would be a treat for her to get away and see a little of what the disaster looks like.Jack Evans is still on the quest for the Vivian Girls, and believes he'll have them back in camp in two days."

"That will be very jolly Miss Aronburg."You know I told you or Jean what nice sort f of Princesses they were, and how well they and their followers got on together with those little Military Saints.I don't know how I should have got out of the Glandelinian prison camp if it had not been forone of them.Her sisters,and girlscouts were very kind t to me too, yet I often wondered why they didn't make me a scout then?"

"That is because you never asked I presume "said Gertrude.

For a time however Gertrude Angeline nor even Angeline Richee had much chances to doing anything on that line for him without much argument with her other officers and many of the scouts too. Angeline Jennings had been the main one to at first oppose Gertrudes idea by saying;

"But you'll do your work for nothing.The boy is a foriegner, and and German, and I'm afraid they won't do it."

"Well you know what I have set my mind on Angeline"said Gertrude."But of course such an idea didn't either the heads of the others, and yet it would be very desierable if it would do so.The boy had brought me good information, he knows lots of military ways, more in fact than most of us do, and therefore he surely deserves to get his commission at once, and I do think it would be a good thing for him to recieve the papers of inl enlistment before even we ever reach a christian army.Jennie turner is nearest and she could communicate to the Princesses shquld they return, and if anything happens to us before we get there, and you know how probable this could be the case with us being on such a dangerous adventure, and the losses we have already suffered, they would w be sore about not being as I should have seen too.It would be a tr a treat for us and our cause,and he could fill the place left by James Green when he died."

"How long do you think it willtake before, Violet, and her sisters ever return Miss. Aronburg?"

"Radclid e said ten days or a forthnight.On c acco unt of conditions exist ing because of the flood it shall be a day or two before my telegram shall reach Jennie Turner, and I'll do it for I want to arrange about George's commission.Then ,perhaps I shall persuade Jennie to watch developments around Eva St Claire, and to let me know if there comes to be anyfighting, and how it turns out.Now if you and others would agree to it, that would complete my happiness."

Angeline Jennings, D d Dolores, and others even including Penrod said that this was impossible without the written permission of the Vivian Girls.But Gertrude urged her request with so much earnestness, that at last theyagreed to make the attempt.And indeed when they recovered from the first surprise at the proposal, they all also thought that thisplan would be an extremelypleasantone, for in those days it was quite an event in the lives

of boy and girlscouts to attend to the inlistment of a new boy scout.

"Then everything is arranged delightfullly."Gertrude sa d said.This will indeed make a fine holiday for me andall of you when the time comes, and how ever much you may all enjoy yourselves I shall enjoy myself a greatdeal more, and the boy still more.Now I suppose I shall tellI Angeline Richee our arrangement."

"But you don't know whether Miss Jennie Turner will take him in yet.She being the petioner will have to attend at his inlestiment.Surely you are going to wait to hear from her?"

"Sure I'll have to, Miss Jennings, what do you think?I'm going to inlist him now.Absurd.I am as impatient as a school boy to be off on it, but cannot do it.But nevertheless I am perc perfectly certain that Jennie will be very glad to do this for me.Of course she does not know George, at leas t I don't think so, to my knowledge, but I shall give her an idea of my fancy about that matter and of dourse she'll be glad to learn something of the boy."

"But supposing we do not find, violet, and her sisters." Dolores urged feebly."

"There's no such a thing as not finding them." Gertrude said decisively "And if there is any difficulty on that score it will be very easily managed by Jack Evans, and the Gemini, and any one who don't believe they won't be rescued, I'll challenge them to a bet any time.I'd bet they'd be in the army again before the fifteenth of this month and now its reallly on the 7th.."

Angeline Richee and Dolores laughed.

"I see it is of no use raising objections, Gertrude, you are armed at all points.As long as I knew you, I certainly never have seen you possess such a spirit of determination."

Gert u Gertrude smiled."It would have been better for me, perhaps if I had always been so determined, Dolores."At any rate I mean to have my way in this matter.This boy has done us a good service even if he is not a scout, and therefore, only Heaven can prevent me from helping him in that matter.If the Vivian Girls don't come why I'll have to do it in their name...."""""""""

So Gertrude had her own way indeed, and sent off the telegram.And there was no shade of embarassment either, when wild with delight and excitement over Gertrudes Decision Jean came up and literally kissed George on the cheek.Jack Sanders saw this and he came up and said:

"Your boy friend is quite a hero, Jean.I scarcely recognized earlier this morning this brave young German boy.Do; Don't you see the change since he had been cleaned up and got on new clothes, Jean?!?!?"

"Yes he is quite different." the girlscout said."Why the first time I spoke to him he was as shy as shy could be, and it was for several hours quite hard work getting on with him.Now he seems quite a man though he's only twelve."

"Nothinglike that at all yet Jean." George protested, partly in Abbiesannian and partly in German.

"Not a little man" Penrod himself explained, for he s too stood close by. "What after wandering about the country gou going through adventtes, being a prisoner for several years, bringing good information,helping us capture camps and provisions, di doing signal work,and taking part in our adventures! I think he is entitled to think himself very much a man if not a grown one."

George laughed.

"Of cousse it might have been as bad as that, Master Penrod.Gertrude, and Miss Richee both took possession of a Glandelinian camp, and provisions, but as to Miss Richee's help or rescue I'm sure I had nothing to do with it,and I can't remember that I was in any fighting so far.Now it seems as if I am simply making a voyage as a common boy servant before the mast, and as far as I'm concerned, we look more like a bunch of girls and boys out on a larkingadventure, than what we reallly are, by your uniforms."

The girls giggled at this, and the boys laughed.

"Wel Gertrude we have not he changed in our experiences much in all these days, and not one any nearer either to our deste destinatiojn."Penrod said turning to Angelinia Aronburg, while Jean and George began to talk to each other.

"I have thought we would have made good progress by now, but time has treated us much more kindly th an we could have expected it otherwise.We are thirty seven days out now if I think aright, at least you who have started out first from General Richees army, if I remember right, aneand we even then don't remember whether there is a sun in the sky any more or not.If this does not look as if we have not gone down into Purgatory, than its not worth picturing. It certainly is a "BEAUTIFUL" war war..."""

Gertrude did not contradict him, for she could not have done so wi with truth.

"Nothing changes, not even us, the fires, the enemy, the war nor the flood, Penrod, but our adventure has a great deal changed for the better, so far." she said sadly,"Although I should have known what I would meet with when I became a girlscout, and a girlspy."All of us are much thinner than when

we first started out, but I hope Penrod you have not changed, at least your eyes have not changed, nor your smile, though you look more grim and serious than when I first rescued you from that "rattlesnake attic." Of fourse your bobbed hair makes a difference, you did not wear that them---and- -and---and and---"""!. she stopped.....

"Everything we hope will be changed, altogether and very soo , Gertrude. My enthusiasm for the cause has caused me to become headstrong, bossy,and impetuous.Many ofour friends I'm afraid are becoming fragile and broken now.But I sure was happy to meet you again, and ve y happy in the thought that I could benefit your and our cause.I have an interest in the cause of Abbiesannia now that I want wanted now,and in spite of my being anxious about the strange disappearance of violet, and her sisters, more anxious than I was at their fierce first mysterious disappearance befors the battle at Delights function, have been happier and more full of vigor than I have been for all my years of the past.Knowing too that I was one of those who experienced the Abbiesann flood and explosion and being a witness of it ought to make me good and proud and think I'm the main cheese, but in fact I don't.I'm too humble..."""""""

Gertrude turned away to conceal the tears that stoood in her eyes, and a moment later said;;;

"I am a most forgetful leader here I see.It's close to dinner time eleven thirty, and I have not even ordered the bell to be rung."She summoned one of the boys.

"Go and ring the dinner bell." she ordered.

"Ring what?" he asked.

She did it herself,.

"Another silly remark from him"she thought to herself."And I'll duck him him into the water."

"As soon as the officers had s atvdown to finner, Penrod said;

"By the way Miss Aronbu g, I have a piece of news for you.We were stopped you know last night on land by the efforts of the enemy to getour raft, and I captured a Glandelinian boyscout, which though you did not know it yet, is a prisoner on board this raft.I think it would seem better if he w ere a few years older, for then I would have had him shot as a spy. But as he is too young, younger than any of us, we I suppose cannot do that.He had with him important papers, which discloses to me just exactly where each of the Vivian Girls are located, as prisoners, not prisoners but worse slaves, and as I have had no experiences without caution with spies and Glandelinian agents and what not, I made him confessall and one of the Vivian Girls the best one Jennie I believe is in the possession of a child slave driver or something of that sort by the nam of Augustine, or Aug stinia St Claire. George the boy German was the one who captured this spy yesterday on the heights as he tried to foul Jean, and Jean saw nothing of it either.Now as many commissions have been given to lads under twelve,and as George is alittle over that, and as he said he has had no end of experience with the foe and adventure, and gave god information concerning the destruction of J Abbiesann and all that sort of thing, I ma made a duplicate copy of the papers, and sent them on ahead by telegram to Jennie Turner, and I'll bet the boys commission will appear as soon as they are recovered.Miss Miss Turner knows where Evans is, and will bring him the clues."

"Geroe George did, that,and never said a word, Oh Penrod can it be true." Gertrude exclaimed, as she leaped from her seat in delight."I am sure obliged to him and you Penrod.That is glorious. Evans willfind them in no time now.I hardly even hoped they would be rescued at all for some months to come.Don't look sad Dolores." she said,running round and kissing her."Jennie Turner shan't go into any dangerous territory, you know,and now that her part of the perilous trip is over you need not have any fear of any of us getting into fatel adventues, and sooner or later we will all be back in our own armies again."

"I shall bear it in time"said Dolores,trying to smile through her tears."

"But it comes as a shock just at first.It's a God send though that Jean and I and two of the men rescued the German boy.He proved indeed a friend in need. And we still have that prisoner."

"Indeed"said Penrod, and then he joked about George coming back a few years later as a boy general over all scouts, and was indeed so cheerful and lively that all the girl and boy scout officers could scarcely believe their ears, so wholly unlike was he to the quiet friend, they had known him to be as long long as they could remember.Though the sky was slightly whiter and the sun tried in vain to shine the fternoon was a delightful one to all and the raft went skimming through the waters likw a sailboat.The boyscouts Ramsgate,, Deal, and wolkestone, and also Canterbury and others were on day guard duty.The weather too however was very warm, yet eve ything that could be done to make the time pass hap ppily was accomplished, and their wounded

kept continually as comfortable as it was possible. Gertrude exerted herself to lay ash aside her regrets at their bungled adventure, and to try to enter into the happiness which Penrod evidently felt.

"No Miss Aronburg"said Penrod at the conclussion of the dinner, after the first talk over the commission was concluded also,"We will in the near future I hope to treat Lieutenant George Zimmermon with the respect due to an officer in emperor Vivians, boyscout service...""

"I don't see any chan ge in our situation as yet." Angeline Jennings said, examining both shore, and the flood carefully."

Some of the boys burst into a laugh not understanding what she said and one of them said;

"Wait till you see him in uniform, Angeline."I am afraid though that respect is one of the moral qualities in which you are deficient.Still I think when you see Master George in his new uniform you will be struck with awe."

"I don't think I was talking about that"said Miss Jennings quite severely. and shaking her head."Anyhow I don't think he or any boy will or can frighten me, even though he might also ni not frighten the enemy.I know we surely don't."

"My dear Miss Jennings "said Penrod somewhat gravely"You don't know what we even are going to go up against next."

"No, and none of you either don't know what George is going to turn out next.He may be your superior." and she laughed.

"If a foriegn boy ever has the chance to become my superior than he has to go through a lot of red tape, and have a monsterously big pull with Emperor vivians Daughters."said Penrod almost severely himself."But if he want's my commission as bad as all that he's welcome to it."

During the following hour all the party who were not too worn out went straight to workand were joined also by jean, George and others.Gracedelinia frequently declared,(she being also among the slightly wounded) that she did not think any one could have more enjoy themselves on board the raft than George and Je n y ean did.They went to see that the survivors among the cavarlys horsd horses were cleaned and fed,and the boys, Drury Lane, and Rane Laghe did their best to do some paddling when the wind suddenly died down and the raftt became becalmed.Penrod during the work to get the rea raft stared under way again was the life of them all, and had he had his way many more would have had more times than they did.But many of the scouts too wanted to enjoy themselves and not be worn out, and many who felt fatuged stayed in their ten tents, and finally only the four girlscouts leaders were still directing orders to the rest which seemed as great a threat as anything. As the boy during some of his work got his clothing quite dirty, Jack Sanders got for him some cleaner garments,and of course George had to dress up like a dude . By this time the raft came within sight in the distance of another flood u town partly under water and here again they were stalled for a time near shore. very one wanted to go far in shore to view the wreck but Gertrude sternly forbade anyone to leave the raft without orders

"It is too dangerous"she said."My advice to you all is to keep the raft clear of the houses and do not even work it through the town as the craft will get jammed between the street and then we'll have to blast houses to get loose.We got to keep very well on our way you know,and a little advice always comes in useful.We all got to hold our own with others.I consider that it was quite unfortunate for us to have gone through the time of experience when Ilanded the raft at the cove, and heaven knows we don't want another such experience.No no one must leave the raft at all, and I have no intention of landing any where anymoreuntill we reach our destination .I told iss Riches to look after everything,and she is going to and it has given me a v vast plesureto have such a girl scout like her assist me.And if we get into any more scrapes we will have plenty enough.This flood is dangerous but to land on shore is still more dangerous.We have by the speed of the raft through the sails I believe outraced the forest fires but we can meet it again if we land.So no one is to land anywhere here. And you rowers, and paddlers, keep clear of the flooded town.If there is need of rescueing any one from homes or roof tops we'll use our boats.But we won't go near the town as our raft is toowide and too long for the water logged streets."

Then Gertrude had a long talk with George.

"I don't think I nese to give you much advice , my boy. "ou h ave as you said been out in the world partly on your own account, butmostly because of the enemy,and have shown you can make your way, and are as good in militaryporprof ession as any of us.I therefre got to tell you something before

you recieve your papers ,and your uniform. You are going into a life George that h has many dreadful perils, and some of us have had such hardships in our work that we had many p temptations to desert.If that comes on you, do not give way to them my boy.We all fought them off and succeeded.We only so far only suffered one scourge and that is a boy who deserted us by the name of Jack Saunders.Therefore above all set your face a against the curse of our times, fear, cowardice, and so forth and over indulgence in recklessness in case you are not fraidy. And do not be overcautious.That has been the ruin of thousands.Do not think it heroism to be reckless because you see others are, and we cure them of that habit pretty soon as mildred did of a girl we have here called Jane Mellfort Always live if you can so that if you keep a true dairy of your experiences you could hand it to either me to read or your relatives without a blush on your cheek, and always bear in mind that though violet, and her sisters will not always be near to see you Our Lord will always see you.I know you are a good Catholic and therefore trusted you. Your being a Catholic was the saving of you from being made a prisoner whe n we took you on board.When your old clothing was searched, we found every artifle article that showed your true Faith.You will try, won't you George?????"

"I will indeed Miss Aronburg."

Penrod did his level best to keep up the spirits of all the party on board the raft, but some of the officer among the girls had nevertheless broken down over so many of their girl and boy companions who were l ing wounded. Gracedelinia cried early that morning almost without intermission over Mildredamishap and even Penrods eyes had had a suspicious moisture in them as he has shook hands with George for his good work.Gertrude had not broken down, but nevertheless she had been vengeful and therefore had for three hours that morning, during the early part of the renewed trip, shelled the lowest and highest part of the shore and whether there was any results no one knew.Fortunately the raft was kept quite a distance off from the flooded town.As long as the town remained in sight George stood on the stern waving his handkerchief tward the town in hopes of attracting anyones who may be marooned there but there was no response,then having removed the traces of tears from his cheeks he turned again to look at what was going on around him.He observed the raft was about a thousand feet long, and three hundred feet wide, and carried the full number on it now besides r om for horses of the men and tents for shelter and floated easily and saftly.Before they had come closer to the flooded town he found that one girl scout among them Maud Angelinia belonged to his own company of friends, as did another girlscout with always a smiling face who he learned was nicknamed "Bright eyed Mary, and whos e proper name was Mary glorinia.Though she too had suffered a wound, she was able to be about,and she was a cheery girlscout, full of life and spirits, and seeing him at once took George's Hand, and was not long in drawing from him the story of his adventures with the Glandelinians in camp, his witness ing of the disaster and other stirring times.

"You will do my lad for a boyscout if you can get into the servid e.I can see you have the roughness rubbed off you already and will get on cqitkally with all of us.I can't say as much for all foriegners.I've known many who did succeed by a pull of getting into the army as scouts and so forth, and yrtthey had been completelypufedup with the sense of their own importance and to do things that finally caused their disca discharge from the army. However I have known moreunlikely subjects than they to turn out as decents boys after a course of instruction, but they have had rather a rough time of it, and that's a fact.The boys or men we mainly do not trust of foriegners is the English or any eng;ish english speaking person no matter what Nationality for they have turned out bad for us.We have did many new comers that a newly joined boyscout is not regarded in the same light as a commander in chief.and it just like a new boy or girl going to school for the first time in his life you know.If his fellow scholars find out he or she are a decent sort, they let them alone and even be b friends, but if he is an ass, especially a conciated as he'll have rather a rought time of it. But t George you must do everything that is asked, and be particular not to initaly offend these leaders, Gracedelinia, Angeline Jennings, and her sister Dolores, Maud Angelinia, and Penrod and also Richie and Miss Aronburg.And as you will be in the same tent with Penrod and have had the advantage of having gone about the world a bit, and had lots of experiences you might be his best friend."

"I have been chatting with him a bit already."George said."He has always been a fine scout,and has been brought up as a military scout by General Greatheart,and I should thinkfrom w what is said that he is one of the favorites of the Vivian Girl Princesses."

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"So much the worse if you offend him."V Evangelinia glorinia said." There is nothing like experience for bringing a boyscout to his senses unless it is military training,and the earlir in life the process takes place the less painful it is."

"I don't think I willturn out a bad fellow"George said brightly."I have seen some English scouts in lon ging to one of the Regiments under Walter Starring, and they were as Asses but he trained them out of them in eighty eight hourtorder.I did what I could to give them a hint, but they would not take an advice from as they said an "Old Dutchman".Now they find out I was right."

The voyage round the flooded town and then starting past it was quitea quite a pleasant one, but close to it they had to drop anchor for Gertrude wanted to use her glasses and see if she could find find any one who may be marooned on house tops or in attic windows whom she may rew rescue.Close to the town the shore was observed thick as as clouds with forests of the "Parsley type,and to avoid serious consequence in casewhoubes would break loose and float down the raft was brought as near shore as possible without of course running peril from possible foes or what not on shore.Gertrude nor others could hardly seen anything like human beings and she wondered if the town could ne deserted.Ra George was quite sorry that there was no one seen who could be rescued, but nevertheless a party was allowed to disembark, and row up the flooded street a ways.Gertrude charged those to pick out what lugg age they could, and to bring back reports.

Indeed for some reason or other George felt extremelypleased that Angelinia Aronburg was remaining on the raft as he felt non e of the shyness and unpleasantness he would have otherwise have experienced.

All this time he had observed that Angelinia Aronburg was a great favorite of all her followers, and he had often ob overheard her speak warmly of him. Once hehadover heard this;

"You girls and boys will find George a first rate young boyscout when he gets his peers.He has seen something of this war already, knows what child slaves go through, and had been a prisoner for two years,and has gone through a lot of adventures.He is a bright pleasant good tempered young boy.Some time later I will question the Glandelinian boyscout Ge r George had captured but don't be too hardupo n him you boys for otherwise he'll not say anything at all, and Glandelinians are revengeful you know.Remember easy does it, and don't be pushing him too far.He is not a fool, and if watch rightly will come round in time.I sure can thank George that he brought so valuable a foe as this prisoner, who had such valuable peers upon him.I'm going to try and make him tell who kidnapped the Vivian Girls or seized and carried them away.I'll make him confess if I have to bribe him."

Indeed the great formidable Mic-Hollester and Marie Osborne forests , the far famed wooded country of Calverinia, stretching from the southeast to the northwest and north, a seen as it could be as far as a birds eye view would reveal it from an unusual mountain height formed the most prominent feature of this portion of the frightful forest fire horror, and the dreadful most frightful battles to rage in the wars near future.These forests considering in this story for many centure centuries has been and will still be probably the greatest interest and great attractions of people who desired to live in the locality or view it from the mountain tops.The city of Abbiesnn or its w extreme northeastern section which escaped the ravages of the flood, faced aportion of the northern extremity of the forests which even there formed as grand and as magnificent a pandrama as any to be never seen in the world for real.Strange pine forests, that rear high to the sky like thickly mated leaves of the Carrots, or like Parsley was an unusal sight but very inflmaa inflamable in the dry season.These forests was a link in the unusual historical scene and chain which will from now on always bind the surviving war victims to the horrors of the past which da takes them back to the days of the Frightful Glandico-Abbiesnnian Child slave war.Emperor vivian himself had wrote-

"Throughout eastern Calverinia rises our beautiful hills d crowned with magnificent forests, and nothing lik it seen in the world.Beautiful pine, supply the nation copiously with Turpentine, Tar, resin and other worthy saps even for med icines.Beyond or within clearings of these forests on level plains are magnificent towns and villiages.This makes Calverinia one of the beautiss of the world."

Though of his own kind Emperor Vivian too is a great historian it was evident that he could not be a prophet onwhat was to coupon Calverinia and her sister states, and now this subsequent history of the horrors has shown that at varying points the war as has burst forth in great"eruptive a"activity.

The destroyed city of Abbiesnn indeed was a city of the greatest antiquity its origin being believed by far distant Calvetnian tradition to its former character, but it was not founded by any Calverinians, and about the time of its destruction it was a municipal and fortified town.Situated on low ground

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ground between two big rivers its position also being able to face the Great Mic-Hollester Lake was considered very important its lake port being one of the best in Calverinia.The mystery of the flood is unknown, and it was not the lake or the two rivers that made the inundation, but which had been gu turned into seas by the flood coming down from the north.Many villas surrounding Abbiesnn were of great splendor and had been owned by the Abbiesnnian patric ians, who gave worthy amounts to the cause Abbiesnn too was one of the most ancient cities in Calverinia, and one of the most largest and oldest, and was probably founded by some very ancient Rok Roman colony that settled in Calverinia in this story, for what is considered its oldest buildings which stood on high elevation fortunately, a big Greek Temple, and others to the appearance of ancient Pagan templ s temples that looked like buildings con structed four hundred years before Christ . For over fifteen hundred years these buk buildings however had been know the grandest Catholic Churches in all Calverinia, and as there were twelve, they had recieved the names of the Chief Apostles, the biggest being known however as St Josphe's making the 13th/ This temple had been dedicated to St Joseph and Our Lord.

The situation of Abbiesnn possessed many great advantages.Upon the verge of the greatest Calverinian inlad lake, near the mouth of a river known as the Abbiesnn too with fertile plains far west, and immense beautiful forests east, north and northwest it united the main convisi conviences of commerce railroads as great as may ne observed in Chigaco , St Luious and New York combined with the securiety of a strong military station.Early in the war the enemy made some desperate efforts to capture the city and failed..

The delightful position of the immense city the genial climate of the locality where though quite such a distance north, cold winters are unknown, and its many attractions, its beautiful churches, Cathedrals, the kindness of the people, and the civility of the children tward all strangers, and the saintly character of all its population caused it to become a favorite retreat of all persons who could afford to go there, either for visits or fi for stay, and thus for the reason the city grew, and had 10f000 railroad lines running in and out.A section of the city that would be about the size of St Luious M. MO. which was on higher elevation escaped total destruction, and was too high to be reached by the deluge, and later also was found that few of the inhabitants at that section perished but d esertes after the disaster in their apprehensions of the rea repeat."

"How did you learn all that George about Abbiesnn.?"Asked Jean

"I've learned all that in School.I've seen a fe good part of the extreme northeastern portion of Abbiesnn, and though its unapproachable from the other directions, it was only partly ruined.Only a considerableportion was overthrown by the shocks.I've learned that as soon as the inhabitants had recovered from their alarm, they instead of rebuilding their shattered h houses went away tward the northeast fearing a still more fearful catastrophe."

Gertrude and her followers realised they after all had a very important boyscou boy with them in this German lad for he was able to give singularly and graphic descriptions of the disaster, he was one of the only accurate eyewitness, and who had been well qualified to observe the strange phenomena of the disasterous shocks, and therefore they believe he was entitled to not just getting more inlestment papers, but those for a commission.

By now the girlscouts had moved their raft a little beyond the flooded town they had reached and had come to a new section of shore that was more densely forew forested than usual.As they thought of beaching the raft to go on shore and get some new logs to repair damagedportions of the raft, they noticed that the sun had again disappeared entirely, and a strange murkey darkness was overshadowing all.

Jean was standing by the rail still speaking with Geruege, Gertrude we went to her tent, to rest a little, she allowing now every one to rest and make up for what they lost during that horrible night, when George himself to her surpi surprise wanted admittance in.

"Miss Aronburg"said her side-decamp"that little German lad wishes to see you on great impor ance.Maybe he has some suggestion about his commission you promised him."

"Show him in." said Gertrude with a smile.

"He came in and saluted.

"Well what's on your mindnow George ?" she asked.

"Something unusual." he said, and she noticed he looked quite excited.

"Whay what is it?" she repeated.

"I wish you would comeout Miss Aronburg.There's a peculiar cloud over yonder rising high into the sky which seems to me of veryunusual shape and size."

"Cloud?"she asked.What from.A storm?"

"I can't tell." he answered."I observe it in the east.It done come forward it goes up."

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Gertrude was quite annoyed at this because she had just decided on getting some well needed craft needed rest, but as Georges's information was quite queer she immediately rose from the cot on which she had by been lying.

She went out, and indeed saw a cloud that resembled something of a long line of volcanoes in the most violent eruption they could ever have without blowing themselves away to the level of the ground. She proceeded to the cross tree of the mast by quick climbing from where she could probably observe it, and George at her bidding had gmeup with her.

"This is a very uncommon appearance to me" she said.

"What is it" asked George looking kind of scared. "Are there any awful volcanoes in eruption over there."

"It is too far away to be seen perfectly and I cannot clearly perceive from where it comes from." answered Gertrude. "Then she hallood down "Jean bring up my glasses. I want to see something which appears very unu-ual unsual."

" "What!" Asked Jean as it was kind of hard to hear from that height."

"My Opra field glasses" shouted Gertrude through her hands."

Jean understood and said to one of the boys "Go to Gertrude's aide-decamp and get Gertrudes telescope."

"Get what?2 he gasped" looked tward the cloud which he observed Gertrude had seen. "Looks like some big volcano in action don't it. All right I will." and he dashed off."

When the boy brought it, she sent Jack up with it.

However even with the help of the glasses at t that distance it could not be clearly perceived fromwhere such a dreadf l cloud issued, but Gertrude felt in her heart that no volcano had anything to do with it. It appeared like an immense wall full of rolls, bulges, caulcflower and other odd shapes but it rose even into bigger convulitions clear a r across the sky overhead in big balls, and to an ernormous height, and to the north extended itself at the top in s a sort of False cirrus rolland wreaths occassioned either by strong gales of wind at such an elevation, the force of which might have increased as it rose upwards or by the expansion of the cloud itself, when pressed back again by its own weight. Above it appeared a bright strange crome yellow but the under portions was intensely black, and gray, and even brown and was at the higher rising portion dark and spotted as if it had been more or less impregnated with earth and cinders.

Gertrude was excited. To her this was a mostunusual and extraordinary phenomena and her curiousity getting the best of her she desired to make a more closer inquiery of it even if it was risky. She descended to the flooor f of the raft, and though many objected to herpurpose she ordered a boat to be made ready for her to go tward shore, and invited George, and Jean, and any of her girlscout officers and privates to accompany her if they choosed to do so. They did.

As she was leaving the raft or preser preparing to do so a note was brought to her from one of her girlscouts, who was in the utmost alarm at the scene, and feared a an imminent peril threatened them all if they landed ashore, and the only mode of escape if anything happened was only by the waters. It note came t from Gracedelinia, and she earnestly entreated Gertrude and the others not to take the chances to go to land. Fearing she might be a ,little too reckle reckless, she a ccordingly changed her first design, and she recalled the boat and ordered that the raft should continue the trip. Therefore she returned on board, and ordered the rails up and the paddlers to take a rest with an intention to get a little further out on the water where she might have a better view of the land. Indeed they were almost in terrorat the sight as the great cloud so steadily increased, and therefore those who re a remained at the paddles steered directly outward tward the open waters, and with so much composure of mind, that Gertrude before it grew dark wor- were able to make and dictate h r her observations on the changes and aspects of that dreadful scene.

I It was some work to get the raft out into the more open waters, and quite perilous too, and for ex a moment a smoky fog enveloped them which grew thicker while the atmosphere grew hotter. Pq Pausing whether she should go back again tward shore to avoid the fog, to which she was advised by Gracedelinia she fin lly conse consented to do so knowning that fortune befriends th the brave.

The raft was pushed in where the flood after several windings goes over a low flat shore forested, and making it partly a swamp. Gertrude again had a desire to go ashore and see what was wrong for nothing on shore at that time seemed to be in any actual danger yet being wi hin prospect of it, and therefoe she was determined i to go ashue, and if anything went wrong to pit back on the water as soon as peril threatened. she knew that if it was a volcanic eruption cinders from the mountains would fell into the water and on the raft, together with pumice stones, and black pieces of burning rock,

and the flood would probably whe but no such things occured. The wind was however favorable, ad off the west, but nevertheless every one ob board the raft was in the greatest consternation at Gertrudes kd idea of proposing a second time to land. However she spoke to them encouragingly, and told them to keep up their spirits, and still better to dissipate their alarm, she ordered with an air of unconcern one of the boats to be got ready. After this was done she got into it with great cheerfulness or what was equally courageous with all the se mblance to it.

Meanwhile new clouds like the same eruptions, broke forth in several other places as if with the greatest violence, and yet Gertrude or the others knew they couldn't be eruptions because there was no cinders falling, no light nings in the cloud, nor was there any loud hissing or thundering, yet what ever it was the darkness of the cloud contributed to render it still more visible and dreadful. But Gertrude to soothe the anxieties of all those on board the raft believed it was some strangemotion of a storm, or that a big rain was quenching the distant forest fires or that it was the burning of villiages and works which the enemy may have set b ablaze when compelled to leave them behind in their continual advance. After this Gertrude finally retired to rest advicing a many of the others to do so too and it seemed that she was so little discomposed that she fell into a deep sleep. The raft in the mean meantime was pushed off from the shore a little ways or it would have impossible been impossible for any one had they continued to remain there longer to have made their way out into the open waters without serious disaster. As it grew darker and the air grew very warm, and a strong easterly breeze began to spran springup it was thought proper therefore to awaken her.

Finally she was aroused, and she got up and joined her girlscout officers and the rest of her company who were too nervious to think of going to sleep that afternoon for a while. They consulted together which course would be the more prudent, to trust to remaining close to shore, or to go out into the open flood where debris floated sometimes in such quanities as to threaten destruction. And especially in such darkness it was dangerous to go far out on the waters. In this dilemma they decided to risk the open flood way, as offering the greatest chance of safty fromwhat they began to fear it was, a resolution whihc which, while the rest of the companies hastily adopted it through their fears, Gertrude, Angeline Richee, and on of the others including Penrod refused to think of.

"Not in suchdarkness" she said. "If we had light enough to see what would be bearing down upon us I might risk it. If we crash into anything our raft will be torn apart and we'll all go swimming."

They therefore remained close within shore. Probably it was something like day everywhere else without any actual sunshine but over this locality there was now a deeper darkness prevailing than even in the obscurest night, though it was in some degrees broken by torches and lights of various kinds on the raft. They thought it proper then to go further to shore to ascertain whether they might saftly land incase anything happens on the flood, but in doing so found a great heat prevading off shore on a high boisterous wind from the east. Finally an hour aftertwards the daylight began to appear a little again, but the light was exceedingly faint and languid, the forests of trees on shore wavered with with the wind, and though they still remained off shore on their raft yet, as the waters here was shallow, Gertrude realised she could not run the risk of becoming mired or run aground here without certain and formidable peril, and she therefore resolved to run down the shore a bit. Everybody on board seemed to be in a panic of alarm and, as to a mind distracted with terror every suggestion seemed more prudent than its own, and they pressed closely together of kept to the middle of the rafts, and the horsesthemselves neighed piteously.

As soon as the raft had been paddled a convienient distance from the shores, the raft was halted in the midst of a perilous and dreadful scene. The outline of the forests seemed to roll back and forth in waves before a strong gale blowing, as if to be driven from its strands by the winds convulsive throes. On the other side, a new and more terrible and black cloud seemed to dart out a long train of fire resembling flames, shooting high into the air, and moving forward.

"Leaping Lizards." gasped Gertrude. "It's the darn forest fire again."

"So it is" said Angeline Richee, as the black cloud seemed to descend and enshroud the whole flood area, as in truth it now entirely concealed the whole shore. Smoke now began to envelope them as if a fog though in no considerable quanidity and the heat became greater, and the winds stronger.

"We better move." Suggested Angeline to Gertrude. "If this is a fire hurricane starting up, this is no pla e for us. The fire would envelope us on the raft."

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"Look there for heavens sake." cried Gracedolinia.

Gertrude turned her head and perceived behind her a dense smoke, which came rolling in the tract of the raft like a torrent.Also far off behind the trees a dreadful flare brightened the upper skies, and a hissing as of burning grease was heard.

"I believe"proposed Gertrude"we'd beter better diver e from this loc ality lest we should be overwhelmed by too much thick smoke and be smothered. or that trees may fall on the raft and crush some of us to death.We could do this while there is yet some light, and the flare ought to help us."

But scarcely had she gave orders when darkness overspread them, not the darkness of a cloudy night, or when there is no moon but that of some chamber whidh is close shut, with all the lights extinct.

Then nothing could be heard but the shrieking of the wind, the astonished cries of the boy and girlscouts, and the exclamenations of the men.Some called aloud to God for light and safty, others for their comrades not to lose themselves from the raft, others for prayers, being only able to dis tinguish persons by their voices, not a few wished to die out of very fear of desth, many lifted their hands heavenward, but most imagined the last day of the world had come, which should destroy the world and the oceans together and the people on it.At length a new glimmer of light appeared which was the appearance of an approaching burst of flames, than the return of daylight. The fire however having stayed quite a distance from them, disappeared again behind clouds and they were all again immersed in dense darkness. Fortunately a little after, the wind suddenly changed direction again, blowing stronger yet off the west, and after a while this dreadful darkness gradually disappeared the cloud of smoke moved eastward, and hung there as seen before, the actual twilight day returned but not no sun.Every object that presented itself to their eyes(which were extremely weakened) seemed changed, and where the fire had swept within view they could see everything was covered with a layer of gray ashes, with stubbles of trees standing and smoking here and there.Though d y daylight returned, they all passed an exanxious time between hope and fear, though indeed with a much larger share of the latter for the roar of flames still could be heard, and the smoke wall increased intensely though the westerly winds kept it off the western sky by now.

What this account for was that the forest fire had reached sportion of the inflamabable Mic-Hollester Run Fors Forest one hundred miles southeast of Evangeline St Claire.The consequence was terrible in all its circumstances, the rolling smoke wall of darkness and horror, the flashes of flame every now and then through it, the distant fire hurricane---but yet more terrible in its novelty of character, and the seemingly wide range of its influence.

If there had been any towns in its path this time, these combined causes would have brought a fatal affedt effect upon the inhabitants.If road ways had been crowded with with people at this time no one probably would have escaped.If any did escape by immediate flight it might have been those warned in time.Yet w it was and is impossible to exaggerate the horrors of these dreadful conflagrations.The flames even when you were close by made a sound as if of the rumbling of the earth beneath, the dense obscurity, and the murky shadow of the sha heavens above, the long heavy roll of the waving trees before the gale before the fires races up, the strident noises of the hot fire created vapors and gases as if escaping from an many mountain craters, the sf shifting glares with which atintervals relieved the awful darkness, only to make it ghastly more than before, the burning seas, the hurrying fugitives from distant towns warned beforehand with wax wan faces and straining eye balls, calling on those they loved to follow them, the hot ashes and smoke borne onward by the wind driven through the air, above all that fine impalpable but chocking dust which was driven everywhere by the terrible high winds, going everywhere where no human skill could devise protection, all these things during that time that Gertrudes crew was in horror must have combined into a whole of such unusual and such awful terror that no imagination can desxr ibe it.The strongest,and bravest heart was appalled, the best balanced mind even lost its composure.Many refugees no doubt lost their reason, and wandered through the territory or down the roads gibbering and shrieking lunatics.And none we may be sure who survived the peril ever could forget the sights and scenes they had witnessed on these days of awful doom.Some could have been heard calling aloud for their little ones, others for their parents, others for their husbands, this man lamented his own fate, that man or woman the fate of the family orloss of home too.

For fugitives no one could say how many days and nights must have been thus endured with all the anguish of suspense and uncertainity.On with the passage of the fire the darkness would by degrees began to pass away.The day would appear, the sun try to shine forth though very faintly as when an

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eclipse is coming on, but all nature seemed changed.Where forests lately stood is a sea of smouldar and gray or whitened ashes.The scene was changed all was over, but the sea of ashes and smoke is there the air is shimmering in the heat, and the beautiful forests are no more.In their places are apparently desolated plains of smouldering ashes, with a smoking tree standing here or there or with even no tree visible, nothing to be seen---nothing but a great surface of white ashes or gray, smoking and smouldering red.

The conflagrations goes onward burning fiercer and fiercer the progress sometimes is slow though continuous, the progress is great, horrible andmost most destructive.What is left of half burned trees seem petrified ashes and charcoal.Not even the wild flowers in all their loveliness and beauty can be seen to hide the hedi hedious tragedy of the "red plague. Nothing but miles upon miles of smouldering ashes as if a world is burned out and dead.To day day it is a m "municipal conflagration, a combination blaze of great fury and extent, the flames are absolutely unchecked by the hundreds of thousands of fire fighters who struggle desperately but n in vain. If it was a truecne no country in all the world would so completely portray that period of the past to us as does poor Calverinia, both east and west, overwhelmed by hedious floods, torn by battles, made harrowing by massacres of thousands of children, rent and shattered and torn gaping open by so many terrific explosions, and hidden in all its horrors for months and months by the smoke of forest fires th that prevent shsunshine even more than a thousand miles away from the state.A "Beautiful Magnificent, satisfactory" outcome of the war so far is it no2?"

CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR... 789.

CALVERINIA AND THE WAR HORRORS.
GERTRUDES DAIRY ON THE WAR, WITH A RECORD OF OVER A SCRE
OF ENORMOUS DISASTERS TALES OF DESTRUCTION.
STARTLING NEWS.

During the late afternoon of this dreadful day Gertrude wrote a true dairy of the great astonishing disasters throughout Calverinia, of which the boy George recited to her which she hoped she could present to the Vivian Girls, and this is first what she did write;;

She entitled it "Calverinia and the war horrors."
It ran as follows;;

Our State of Calverinia is probably going to turn out as one of the most celebrated war torn and shaken countries in the world, and is a state somewhat northeast of Angelinia State situated between Abyssinkile, and Angeline Vine and has two sea boards or shore, of the Mic-Whirthian, and the Angelinian seas, not forgetting also the northern most sea known by the name of the State itself. I've traced in historythat the most ancient peoples often alluded to Calverinia, and by some it was believed to be the "I old Eden"from which Adam ad Eve were driven from by others as a strange land peopled by people that are toorighteous to be true, and which stories and facts were therefore investigated..... Now Calverinia is like a hellish region. The flames of forest fires proceed as if from the breath of the great Infernal Regions, the thunderous noises of battles, and great explosions, which the world still believes exaggerated seem to be the demons trying to blow their way out of hell, andcreate the shocks for their escape.Indeed it seems to all who survive that we are in perdition ourselves, and that from great portions great clouds of unapproachable fire are vomited upon our forests from the innermost depths the yelling Glandelinians are the demons, and the victims and refugees and others the lost souls, yet it seems as a hell with some daylight occassionally, which during twilight the fires pour forth a lurid rush of smoke to darken probably the world, but in the darkness a red rolling sea of flame sweepeth ever wh everywhere accompanied by the fire hurricane that rages with the uproar of the wide deep sea.Combinedto this is the devastating foul posionous s flood waters like the seething likes of hell.I've recorded that many others writers see spe speak now of Calverinia as gone down unto hell for not being wicked", and among them is Emperor Vivian.While many poets on the one had are now investing the Calverinian horrors with various preternatural and spectral attributes, and had made it also as a hell upon earth, and the workshop of the butchering enemy, many writers are endeavoring to show that the e horrors and other phenomena of the dreadful war could be explained as the enemy "seeing disaster to his side" being desperate, and resorting to foul means in the efforts to crush the christian tide.The ordinary operations of nature is even hoodwinked.

We could also find menton mention of the horror by even some of the Christian generals.I had been advised to have a work published in which I should describe my own experiences in the war but so far I had refused as it might get into the hands of the enemy.The horror is in three kinds, explosions, flood and fire, and otherwise too in battles and massacres,and allour beautiful forests are going even while I and my followers still go riding on the raft.The great explosions at Abbiesnn are described at length by many of the volcano investigators, and a brief account of them has been given by the Mayor of the city of La Polama which was wiped out by the flood.All the writings have attracted a great deal of attention, and has been described by countless numbers of eye witnesses.The bright of the disaster seems now at hand, especially the floods.The earlier writers had very unexaggerated notions on the subject, and an extent of a thousandmiles or more of the floods has been assigned, when that is a mere trifle.It must be born in mind that flood disasters we had in the past had variations in size and furt fury,and the only worst before this in my estima i estimation was the Lake Selicia calamity.During the last couple of months this former flood however in its height has been practically constant, and shows no abatement whatever.Wherever all the water is coming from only Our Blessed Lord knows. Out of IfOOO

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Out one thousand, there are said to be two cities, Catania Junction, and Aci Reale,and sixty three towns and villiages in certain locations that are sole survivors of the disaster. And the far most thickly populated part of Calverinia, Bengall State, and Angeline Vine suffersthe brunt of the disaster, and an unestimated number are still homop homeless. Calverinia and Abbiesnnia are far more thickly populated than any other states of Abbiesnnia.No less than thirty million people lived in Abbiesnn and the villiages around it.

A remarkable f eature of these disasters is the large number of them occuring at so many different places at once.Of course many are small in com a comparison with the great massive disasters that now have occured, but in reality a many of them too are gin gig n gigantic. I have kept a final list of the disasters which I have recorded which no one knows anything about and which I have experienced myself.

First.The first disaster within the historical period of this war happened at Bentan Barcley, an explosion in the town which tore all the buildings skyward.

The seco nd occured at Watson which explosion leveled the town of Pyth agoras to the ground with a death list of thirty thousand.

The third disaster which occured in May I9I2 was mentioned by one of the Vivian Girls, and it n must have been the sam d s disaster to which Miss Turner and Walter Starring alluds, and that was the conflagration at Pullaway. A destruction of the town of Thucydides happened at the same tim by fire at the torch of the enemy.

An outburst of disasters took place at or near the city of Monte Di Moja and the conflagration following the course of the river Darge, crossed the creek near Herdrudes Junction where IOf IO,000 men checked it in time with the help of rain.

I could make or find no record of any further disasters for about IOO days till the month of June I9I2 On the sixth an disaster occured, and the authorities mention a disaster at Klasc simultaneously.Four days later the city of Orrington ia was nearly destroyed by a mysterious conflagration.

Another conflagration of which I alonepossess the details as a witness occured during the battle of Delight's Junction, a hundred miles south of Marcudian, on the Angelinia State Boundary.Livy town was convulsed by the concussion of an explosion which took place on a mountain side shortly before the battle of C Crenter Hundreds which it was believed to have caused.

In the hour of Three on the afternoon of sunday following three different firesctook place.

The next disaster of which I heard of is that mentioned by one of my girlscouts. This was the same day.Also a disaster occured, after which none were heard of for nearly two months June and July but on the First of August I9I2 a violent flood lasting nineteen days is recorded having been brought on by the foe. Carrera, and Photius towns were carried away in this deluge, and the cities of Geoffrey and Viterbo were wrecked.After another long interval of at least a week the enemy again started catastrophes. On July IOth one of the most disasterious floods then on record took place.A violent rushing torrent which swamped the country as far as Glorinia destroyed Golden Creek city in the course of a few hours drowning they say about fifteen thousand people and rendering three hundred thousand homeless.

It too was a Sunday, and the Churches of the city were crowded with people Hearing Sunday Mass who were all buried beneath the ruins or engulfed in the flood together with the priests.

There also was a great torrent that came upon EadyEastern Angelinia State on the same day.Flood waters from a bursted dam descended in the same vinicity causing a new deluge.I myself witnessed a part of theyLake Selicia horro in November I9I2.I first heard the explosions, the ground was strongly convulsed terrible noises were heard and the horizon sky was dense with rolls of black smoke.Soon after a torrent of water poured from the lake near my observation post and to save myself I ran to a slope.

A day after this disaster a fresh outbreak of horrors occured.I prrserved a manuscript which mentioned this disaster which caused the d estruction of numerous groves near the place where I observed it.This disaster which lasted for twelve days commenced also in november two days after I escaped from the Lake Selicia horror.I saw a violent explosion also that made me think an eruption broke out.The towns of Cardinal Bembo, and Fazzello were destroyed by the concussion, and a quanity of flood waters engulfed three villiages, and several new disasters were rd recorded almost at the same time.On the first of December a fresh outburst occured.A number of levees of the River Bebe were opened on the south side by explosions near the city of La Fontanelle and a quanity of water burst forth which flowed in the direction of Gertrude villiage, destroying a part of Santonion,and St Antonio.

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In four days the flood ran six hundred miles.The levee at the north end then suddenly fell in letting o t more water..Three n w disasters occured in the same day.Glendale town was partly destroyed by a violent explosions e near by and explosions became frequent about ten miles away.On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday unimportant disasters occured. On the 6ith eight of pecember a new flood torrent opened onthe northeast side of Angolinia State, and five da s days later several new inundations broke loose in the west, and poured out vast volumes of water which threatened to overwhelm Angeline junction. I have a good detailed report of this flood.It was observed also by many men of different nations,and there are a number of narrati es regarding it.The flood was in every respot one of the most terrible on record.Great forest fires also broke out on mountain sides, and the sun was obscured by the thick clouds of smoke covering the sky, and a strange whirlwind of hot gases blew over the a face of the mountain, at the same time something like earthqua es earthquakes caused by explosions were felt, and they continued to increase in violence for threee days, at the end of which occured a mighty explosion that reduced a town of Danter into ruins.A fissure was torn in the levee of the Aronburgs Run nearly twelve miles long.The flood pouredover a vast territory and there was a strange low hellowing sound reported that could be heard over fourty miles away.At night it was said a bright light proceeded from the forest fires seen for two hundred miles.Six floods raged with the prinp principal one, and tward the close of the fourth day, a new disaster opened new floods about a mile below the other horror, and an explosion covered the country with fallen debris for a distance of sixty miles.

The new breach in the levee soon vomited forth a torrent of water that presented a rolling front of two miles.It encircled the city of Standard, and flowed flowed tward Minnie a town of eighteen thousand people which was entirely swept away.Seven new floods broke from other territories and in three days united with the main one forming one large flood a hundred miles broad.The torrent of water continued to flow and it destroyed Sheetown of St Annie on No December the 25th. On the same day the flood brought forth all the wreck to a jam which was packed so tightly that the flood had to change course and flowed into the bigger rivers which recieved most of the water, and threatened to overtow their own leeves.The original current of the flood had then divided into three new ones one of which destroyed the town of San Pedro, the second Tondo, and the third the lands about Angoline Junction, and afterwards the villiages in the i mediate neighborhood. Fourteen towns were afterwards swept out of existance, and the flood made its way tward Angeline Junction.Near here it is recorded a f eak of the flood occured.It undermined a hill near Banellio two miles from Angeline Junction all the hill being covered with forests and cornfields and farms and car ied it forwards a considerable distance, a vineyard was also seen floating on the watery surface before it broke asunder and disolved into the water.

When the water reached the city of Angeline Junction, it accumulated for a time through the lower streets without much progression, but it kept rising higher and higher hour by hour and overwhelmed overwhelmed a part of the city.Another portion of the same flood threw down the buildings of the north part of Marcuctan and carried death and destruction in its course.On the following morning the flood reached the sea which it entered as a torrent fifty miles wide and at some places fourty feet deep.It is considered the length of this flood was threeehundred miles wwhile its greatest width was betweeen two and threeee hundred miles.For a few days after this terrible disaster none was heard of but three days later a new deluge came from a blasted opening in the Mic-Hollester Run River near Mic-Hollester Junction and the water rushed doe down on the city and loud noises resembling the discharges of heavy artillary were heard.A violent explosion followed and the town was engulfed in the flood, and eighteen thous thousand of its inhabitants perished.It is said that in all fifty cities and towns were destroyed in this inundation together with overone hundred thousad people..The follow ng day elsewhere witnessed a flood but no serious disaster resulted.A fire too broke out and the great column of black smoke which issued from the flames was seen as they say three hundred miles.Loud detonations from scores of great explosions were heard, and two streams or seas of fire surged through the forests.A new conflegration broke out near Rocca Totta four miles from Mic-Hollester Junction and an extraordinary flood of water descended from a undermined dam carrying all before it, and strewing its path with wreckage of all sorts.The volume of water was estimated to be about 916,000,000,000 feet probably a greater amount indded indeed than could be furnished by any good sized river.It formed a channel six miles broad and in some places sixty feet deep and it flowed at the rate of two miles a minute minutes during the thirty miles of its swifter course.The flood was produced by the des ruction of the dam.

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It was believed a smart sh c shock like an earthquake produced by some explosion caused the walls of the dam to fall out.The explosion torn in a long levee of the Mic-Hollester Run River a gap which they say was seven miles long terminating in a new and tremendous flood.This flood encountered a sort of rise of ground in its course, and separated into two floods each of which was about fifty miles in exte t extent.Other gaps were torn in the levees later by the enemy and emitted larger quantities of water while elsewhere there were slighter floods.Concussions were also prevalent with the bursting of these levees by explosions and vast volumes of debris were carried out to sea, and the smoke of great fires were also carried over the land seeming to form a great bridge between Calverinia and Abyssinkile.A torrent of water flowed tward the town of Adernio, and a second flowed as far as thirty miles southwest of Angelinia Agathins.By one of the explosions a pit was opened below the levee and the country round was desolated. For ten days after here and there slight disastors occured simultaneously.In one week of December not less than twenty one disasters occured between the towns of Cat Castiglioi and Furni, and a week later more than thir y thirty disasters occured on a straight line running eastward for fourty miles.Explosions seemed to momentarily eject from the ground jets of fire, accompanied by much smoke towering as high as if from great volcanic eruptions. In January new disasters again occured, and three of which were floods and which united intoone large inundation and poured forth in a large quenity of water.The flood flowed on untill it reached the town of Val Del Bue, and it is no more.Emperor Vivian observed that the flood had flowed at the rate of fourteen miles an hour nine months after its emission from the broken levees.

Disasters occured every day in January without a break, and fifteen floods occured in middle Angelinia State.The flood finally divided into three streams the two main of which soon came to a standstill, which the central stream continued to flow at the rate of thirty miles an hour. A forest fire broke out two hundred miles away, and the heat of it, at a distance of three hundred miles with the wind blowing from its direction was 99 .0F. A new flood also broke ou t just beyond the town of Bronte Junction, and the flood rushing over the old tim battle ground of Empire Crossroads threatened the town, but it fortunately encountered resistance from sand flows from some unknown source and was forced to change its course.While a large number of inhabitants of Bronte Junction were do doing what they could to strengthen levees and frustrate the floods advance, someportion of the levee was blown out by an explosion. Debris and water was hurled in every direction and a cloud of dirt smoke stones and smoke envaloped everything..Two hundred and six parsons were killed on the spot and six hundred survived only a few house hours, and a thousand were hurt.

This how ever was a very violent flood which lasted in that quarter more than nine months before.It was first witnessed so I w as told by a party of sixteen English foriegn Tourists, who were in our country to witness what they dared of this tremendous war.As they approached Bonte Junction the flood came.They were in a narrow defile and the concussion of a distant explosion over threw the horses and the riders, and forced them to seek shelter on high rise of ground.They sheltered themselves n beneath some high overhan ging rocks, when suddenly a nearer concussion shook the hill, and the horses fled in terror. They remained there for days surrounded by the waters, and were finally rescued none the worst for their terror.In the course of the night many rifts of debris floated by.This flood continued for a long time with abated violence during the early months from June 1912 to June the next year and then did not fully cease.The entire mass of waters hurled forth is estimated to be one third as big as the floods now raging with an average depth of about eighty feet or more.

In March of this year frequent shocks from explosions were felt by the towns of northeastern Calverinia.Clouds of smoke were emitted to a great height by the explosions and frequent roaring sounds were heard.On the night of the 20th of March a violent shock was felt at Angelinia Agathia.Somewhere near there a forest fire broke out and burned at the rate of a mile or so an hour and finally divided into two fires.By April the 10th the fires had increased to seven in number and they were all situated along a line stretching along the forest sea of Middle Southern Calverinia working northward. From some unknown source came forth loud detonations three or four hundred times a minute so it was said, but there has been no loss of life in consequence here.It will be seen from the foregoing account that there is a great likeness in the general character of the disasters of this war.Something like earthquakes accompany the explosions, loud explosions are heard as frequent as gunfire smoke sand and dirt are hurled upwards.Out of seventy eight ormormous disasters

comparitively smaller number .adding have been also of extreme violence but not causing any loss of life, while thousands have been of a small and harmless character.

So we see many cities and towns have been exposed to the destructive fury of this ravaging war but the most terrible shock ever felt before the Abbinonn horror as we all should know, and which I kept a record of(which this story did not even record before) was that of April the 12th 1913. Because of some great explosion heard nearly five hundred miles the ground was said to have been agitated in all directions.Nothing could withstand the concussions of the air and therefore in hundreds of thousands not a building had remained intact. The beautiful city of Grecia Turpo was reduced to a heap of ruins.The number of persons who perished in this catastrophe was estimated at eighty five thousand and three hundred and ninty five towns and villages were said to have been destroyed.The greater number of persons who lost their lives were said to have perished in floods that flooded, and many too perished in fires that were kindled in most of the towns not touched by the flood.Many too who were only half buried in the ruins and who might surely have been saved had their been aid at hand were left to die a lingering death from cold and hunger, or face a horrible death by drowning or by burning.There too was no instinct of such thing as self preservation, and the wretched people were not even callous to the dangers and sufferings of others and could not aid them if they wished.Stillworse was the conduct of the dreaded Glandolinian vandals.They hastened into the towns like vultures to their prey.Instead of helping the sufferers, they ransacked the smoking ruins for plunder, robbed the persons of the dead, and of those entangled alive among the rubbish.Even to make it worse they robbed the very injured persons. Men Many who were rescued by the survivors of the gas catastrophe declared their worst suffering were from cold and thirst.There were also many cases of persons being rescued alive from the ruins after a lapse of five or six days or even more after being entombed.Of still more thrilling interest was the case of a Sister of Charity. Having saved a number of children from the ruined orphan asylum she observed that three children had been left behind.Taking advantage of a moment when the others were not looking, she darted off, and running back to the door which was still partly standing, she rescued the children from the room. Having each by the hand, she reached a staircase only to find it had fallen barring all further progress in that dire direction.She got out then by means of a fire escape but then the flood had come on, and she at length reached a high pile of ruins as her last refuge.She screamed for help but no one could reach her, and ere long the pile of debris with the devoted Sister stillhood holding fast the children was enveloped by the flood and they were swept away.Many cases were recorded of devotion similar to this heroic woman but often attended by more fortunate results.Thus is my diary of as many disasters as possible of which I have kept record of."

Toard evening of the 3rd frightful day Gertrude Angelina Roch received a telegram which gave her a great shock.It was Angelina Richon who got the news on her telegraph ticker, and wrote it down; and then brought it back to Angelinia Aronburg. And it was from Jennie Turner;;/; and was as follows;;222""

"My dear Friend Angelinia Aronburg,
Christian girlscouts on raft;
From Christian army near Evangeline St Claire.;

I have very sad news indeed for you, news that is not as you wish but I have to tell it.An event has happened which will I know be as afflicting to you and yur followers as it has been to us.The Christian fleets bombarded a portion of Vivien Wickey called Mic-Whirther; and after a two weeks terrific commonade which "shook the world" failed with dreadful loss, and the destruction of many ships.The fortifications on shore was not in the least harmed.And Glandolin ian armies under the arch enemy of the Vivian Girls, general Pulmose Raymond Richardson Federal is concentrating upon Evangeline St Claire, and awaiting the arival onvof one of the Monloys..We have had a desperate skirmish at Golfer town and our dear friend general Knool who but three weeks ago was so bright, and had served th the army long, and had been so good to us had been killed, and two of his Regiments destroyed.Up to the day before yesterday, he was in high spirits .Yesterday morning he we was sentout todo some scouting to to make an effort to learn something about where the Vivian Girls might be located, and he got caught by a column of Glandolin ian Wheeler forces, known as the Gargoylian Kurds, and in the bloody fra fray was killed with 10%000 of his twenty thousand men. His body was brought back by the sirvivors as well as many wounded.His death and the disaster is a horrible stock to us

, as I know it will be to you.As to the results at Mic-Whirther Annat, I and all the worried girlscouts of violet, and her sisters have long been aware that such an attempt to take the place by sea would be disasterous, and that if it was attempted disaster might takeplace at any moment:Emperor Vivian too is ill, and his brother Hanson is in chief command, and that the doctor Emperor Vivien consulted had told him that he needs to be shad for several days At the same time he too had been so bright and cheerful, that his illness came almost with as great a surprise to us as if we had not known he was going to bevill.And rumors have been flashd to us by Rangora by telegraph that though far away the forest fire is heading for us.General Kind rnino, and Peprods Guardian Greatheart, came to call at Hansons headquarters last night.The con centration against Federal is to tak place on the following Thursday August the 8th I suppose, and had general Constantinian Aronburg been in Calverine as we at first thought he said that he should have written to him to come down to Emperor Vivians help with his own army, which he could have done had h he recieved the letter on time telling of the startling event, but as he did not recieve any letter nothin g now can be done as he is too far awaythe said had general Constantinian Aronburg been able to come he should have suggested that you Gertrude should also be present if you could but that as matters stand he did not thinkthere was any occassion to trouble you know ing what difficulties you have in getting here.I have heard of your bloody conflict with the enemy at Tailboys Cove and the way you frustrated the foe and captured his provisions how the whole army talking about it.I should also tell you that all of our generals and any officers appear a good deal worried, andsom of Kindermines reasons for calling was to ask general Ros Well Buster Johnston whether he know where Emperor Vivian had the habit of keeping his plans.

It seemed upon the day of his h oming ill General Kindermine called upon him to ask to see the plans as he believed there were three slight alterations that he wanted to make, and that he would bring it back to him in the course of a day or two after making the changes required:Emperor Vivians aide-de-camp could not find it.It seemed strange, Emperor Vivian had scarcely left his headquarters except to come down to talk to me sometimes for as he said to me he did not feel quite well, and as his daughters were missing I alone could comfort him; and I thought his illness was a result of his late hours of work.

General Kindergine who is a Finn expert, had searched for it in the afternoon among all of Emperor Vivians, and his brothers papers but found that it, and many important documents---even letters to you, and from you--and so on of great importance, and even Emperor Vivians pocket book full of importan t military bonds----and other things of importance were missing. He then asked Emperor Vivish if he know whether his brother Hanson was in the habit of keeping important papers about his person, but he replied, that he always kept them in a safe if he had one.He had therefore rode over to Emperor Hansons head quarters knowing how he felt too over the long delay of the return of the Vivian Girls.He knew too it seems that his brother had some secure place for any important papers because he had spoken to him upon the subke subject saying that it would be more prudent for him to leave the papers in the strong box of his headqua h eadquarters tent at Gully Ten.Many had said that the Em e Emperor had stowed them away in a safe place and that he had not the least fear of their bein being stolen.Now this is what general Greatheart knew also.Once while they were chatting together, general Roswell Buster Jos Johnson mentioned that the house on top of the rise like many other old mansions contained a secret chamber where a pinn could be hidden from the prying eyes of Glandolinian vandal spies.The Emperor denied that he put them in any secret place as thg he couldn't tell where one is.t myself knew of the existance of one in the building having discovered it accidentally in my own lonroom and I had gave a solemn promise never to reveal it when I first discovered its existence; and I secretly looked to see if the plans were therefore stored there without the emperor's knowledge, but there was nothing there As there is no evidence we cannot prove that a spy h d raided us anyhow it is likely to remain a secret as long as the old house stands,and in the meantime I found it a useful place for keeping things of my own that I do not want lying about.Nevertheless every one appears vexed at what had been missing.It is very strange of course but it can be probable enough that Emperor Vivian has placed thesplan in in the hiding place we may suspect in and in that case we would not need to worry, but the Emperor states that neither he nor his brother, nor any general at his orders had put the plans in any secret place, and therefore if our suspicions are correct and a spy has secured it, I foresee that we shall have no end of trouble with a more monsterous army in Gray concentrating upon Trinoque near Evangeline St Claire."

I know you girls and boys on the raft are all aware of the nature of the Plans that the Emperor makes, and you may be sure that those Glandalinian spies if they also know of it who whether they do or Not I cannot say-- they would make an effort to get it, as the Glandalinians bitterly resent the mobolization of such enormous christian armdmap north that has been going on for the last two months.I have known enough of the nature of for spies to know that.It was evident from general Kindermines manner to me to day that either he is suspicious of something wrong---which of course is possible--or if not then he has nothing to say.I should imagine myself that he is terribl terribly suspicious, because important papers are missing from Honnonne headquarters.And Emperor Vivian been well when the battle raged at Oddorhine it is likely enough that he as the head of the nation would have told us of its existance, but you see he was also wounded at the time, while His Wifnour Empress was at Pandora at the time, and were therefore probably warned of the secret.It is awkward, extremely awkward.Of course if not stolen the will orders may turn up at any time between this week and the next, any how if a spy was here he cannot made escape, as strict orders are in effect always never to allow strange soldiers or any soldier to leave camp without being searched and investigated but I hardly know what steps has best be taken.If our friends and the others have made up their minds that this plan insandintal altered they are likely to carry it through to the end, and Honnon therefore plans now to remain on the defensive.The others quite agreed with Emperor Vivian and others about that and so do I.I have never been able to understand it however now I believe have you any reason to do so for when I first got back here by the aid of the balloon I learned a good deal on the part Emperor Vivian had played to have the causes of those great d e disasters investigated, and that of course set me altogether against the parties you and your followers are stilll risking.....

Of course my dear friend Gertrude Angeline I do not wish to alarm you about the plans, still you ought to know how things stand, and some of Violets boy scouts this morning asked me to tell you all there is totell.I hope to be in a few days again able to give you better n news.Things may not be as they fear.But you know this is the fortunes of war."

Your dearest friend,
Miss Jennie Turner.
Emperor Vivians army.
Evangeline St Claires

While she had continued to try to read this disappointing letter her face had continued to grow paler, as she came to the conclusion her hands trembled and in a faint voice she gasped

"I.....I don't understand.....I....." and with a low cry of pain as of some creature wounded to death she staggered to her feet, stretched out her hands as for help and would have fallen to the ground if Penrod himself had not caught her in his strong arms and helped her to a couch, whereshe lay as if in a dead faint.She looked around her in a most dazed way, then catching sight of the letter lying on the floor, she buried her face in her hands with a low moan of pain.Penrod gathered her up tenderly in his arms and still bathing her forehead and chafing her cold hands soothed and caressed her as a loving brother would would a sick sister.Gertrudes breath came in low sobs and it was some time before Penrod dared aske ask her-

"What is it Gertrude? Surely that is Miss Jennie Turners handwriting.She cannot be dead"he could barely whisper the words

"No, no the attunt on is worse---than that,even to have I could have borne that---she,---she sent me such shocking news, Christian first crushed at Mic-Whirther, our best general a friend killed in an exploit, Emperor Vivian robbed, Violet and her sisters not yet back---it is enough to make one faithless in the cause.The fire is striking for us, and Evangeline St Claire is impossible to us.....And after all our prayers, all our sacrifices during these long torturesome years.Oh it is too cruel.I cannot bear it,I cannot bear it."

"But Gertrude dear it is impossible-.....There is som mistake"gasped Penrods "Why it is only four days ago she wrote you such a lovely letter."

"Yes, and How she sends me this,....she said she didn't wish to disturb me untill it was sure.And now she o own wrote that Emperor Vivian is ill sick abed, and with a powerful army concentrating upon the christians and under that terrible general "Put Pugnose.Glandalinia has caused even the heart of the world to be broken.Now I almost believe Mildred was right, that we are the losing side....."

And the friendly boy and girl lay in each others arms for several minutes too utterly crushed by sorrow and disappointment to be able to find relief in tears.At last Penrod said gently|

Gertrude, let us Deplore Our Blessed Lord, for He is the only one who can give us strength to be resigned under this terrible disappointment and also He can help us.Maybe she made a mistake in her beartings and might change it in another letter."

"Yes you go Penrod."said Gertrude....,"I cannot---I'm afraid I could not pray, I'm too crushed---and what would be the good of praying?Have I not prayed and God knows how fervently and trustfully everytimes I went into the army and it seems the last minute God has refused my prayer as refused to grant my petitions. How can I ever again believe in prayer?"

After Penrod went away Gertrude sat for a very long time with this letter before her.She had not from the shock read it straight through, but after some what recovering herself, and glancing again at the first few lines that told of the losses of battle just past, and the death of one of her dear friends she again had lain it aside and it was a long time before she took it up again. This man had been the love of her own like a father to her, and once when she had been seriously wounded he had watched over her and so delicately aided her, and that for her sake and those of her followers he had planned to get her a higher commission for her bravery.The shock of his death, the loss of the battle reported, the Vivian Girls not yet back, and the raid in emperor vivians headquarters, and of his being ill was a blow to her.Not that she had any thought that the past would ever return.Jennie's letters since she reached the army softly had shown that she regarded something unusual approaching something ill mannered, but since the recieving of such letters she had always thought of even her with a tender affection as one who might have been her sister. The last day they had been go together had brought them very close together. She had assumed the footing of a sister.They had had but 0d one talk alone and she had then said that she hoped Jennie would reach the christian army safely in the airplane.She had shaken her head quietly and said|

"If is well that you should know Gertrude.I have seen a lots of this disturb disturbance since I became a girlscout, and I don't think it will be this moderate much longer.A little time ago I did wish it would get better , and that we should be able to go on untill we see our scheme realized, but I am sure ,quite sure that it is not to be.I't'll soon turn out to be a terrible war, and therefore I must be ready to go anywhere I'm summoned and so happy in the thought that I can be of good service to my country.Don't cry Gertrude dear.I don't want a single cloud to hang over our memories when I am gone probably for goods.I am happier than I have ever been in my life, and I do not fear the venture in the airship which I managed to secure.I have set my mind upon that, and if I see a cloud upon your face it will spoil it all..."""

Still in spite of this she had hoped that Jennie might have taken too gloomy a view of the case, and that any chances of new disasters might yet either be a far distant event or not occur at all.And now it seemd all over. Her friend was dead,the good general, who had even been like a loving father to Jennie too.Mic-Whirther Janet repulsed the christian attack with great loss of ships. loss of life too was immeasurable.Even on many hearts she knew which had beaten so kindly for her and her friends was silenced forever.How could she bear it. Oh how she ached to jab a dandy Glandalinian soldier in the back with her hunting knife.It was a long line before Gertrude recovered sufficiently for from her grief and disappointment to take up the letter again.She did so with an air almost of indifference.She had learned the news and doubtless all this long" epistle" contained many details of which she did not dare to read.But as she read, her grief almost increased and changed to wild yet calm anger and fury.She read it through and then throwing it on the table stood up and walked up and down the tent.She then spoke to the sentry out side.

"Send some one for Angeline Nichen."

"Angeline Nichen, Yes Miss Aronburg."

So these Glandalinian, who she knew were trying to ruin the lives of all christians were now going to attack Emperor Vivians army, and had sent spies to rob him of his plans.They should not do it if she could help it.NEVER. Gertrude Angeline always had been a high spirited girl and strong willed as steel, and d was dynbrite when aroused and although those who had known her through her scout work so far would have taken her for a quiet and gentle child whose thoughts were entirely wrapped up in her scouts, the old spirit was alive yet, as with head thrown back, and an angry flush on her cheeks she declared to herself that through her, and through her alone"Emperor Vivian will never lose a battle in the future.Now or in what manner, she not not say she only knew Federal was as much her enemy as he was of the

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Vivian Girls, and if she could only, KILL him. Had it been otherwise the fact she might have been softened tward him, but this fact only added to the hostility she bore him.She hated any one who hated Violet, and her sisters. Federal, had tried to ruin their lives, and so had all his chif generals now she would defeat the scoundrel at all costs.She'll make it a fact that she'll frustratehis plans to crush Emperor Vivian a even at the distance she was from that place.Federal would not win if she could help it.She would have him crushed instead if it cost her her life.There was of course nothing to be done yet right away, but she would make her plans and suggest it to Jennie turner to have it carrid out.First she must hear from Jennie again not untill sheknew that the discovery of the plans missing.f was a fact, that its recovery was hopeless.Then it would be time for her to do something.

The thought barely occurredto her that the loss of this plan might make ser ious differencesin her h own circumstances, and that some great disaster may even befall her.That was so secondary a consideration that it at present gave her no touble.It was of the peril of her friends in Emperor vivians army and of the failure of the Vivian girls returning, she s thought.And also of Jennie, and the poor man who was killed.Were the plans that Emperor Vivian made---to be shattered and his arm army crushed while he was ill!This to her mind was even more than the loss that any one else could suffer.

"The Glandelinians may have destroyed the plan"she said at last"But if not some one will find it, and I'll bring Emperor Vivian through the crisis if I die for it."

Gertrude went to the telephone as Angeline Richee did not appear.

"I want to sp speak to Angeline Jennings please, yes, Miss Jennings, now ganders stupid."

"What was the name please." came the answer.

"Go to grass and jump in the lake"retorted Gertrude ,and she hung up the reciever.

"I'll go to her myself."she said to her sentry."L Let no one in untill I return.Penrod has my instructions and if you do he'll hold you responsible." In a few minutes she had shown the leter to Angeline Jennings and then said;

"Evidently the plans have not been found.This is terrible.The officers and Jennie has searchd in vain as she wrote.,very cabinet and drawer in the Emperor's headquarters had been ransacked for the missing ducument.And Emperor Vivian is ill.And no signs whatever h ave been found of the plans.G General Roswell Buster Johnston is perfectly convinced that it may be hidden in some altogether exceptional place, and that in his illness Emperor Vivian does not remember well, but the others critize him.The plans was not a bulky ducument as he says and might have been stowed away in a comparatively small hiding place such as a secret drawer or a cabinet, but the papers that Emperor Hanson ismissing are bulking, besides what was in his pocket book and would take up so large a space that the generals are convinced that had a secret hiding place sufficiently large to hold them existed in any of the artidl articles of furniture they have searched, they should have discovered it.Of course Miss Jennings, we feel this matter personelly, it'll be disasterious to us too, as Jennie Turner was you know joint maker of this plan with my own help.We cannot but feel however that the loss is greater in their case than in ours and if Federal obtainspossession Emperor Vivian would be destroyed.Jennie was never informed in the first place of emperor Vivians intentions tward concentrating upon the Glandelinian armies under gener l general Federal and although of course we should have been glad to know that the Empror had had brilliant prospects of licking this sco undrel, the loss of hisp, plans do not we know affect him so much as the fact that no one no one can seem to locate his daughters.In the case of othersituations it is different, and over the loss of the Vivian Girls his very prospects in life will of course be seriously affected, and I feel very much deep regret for this.I and Penrod have talked and grieved over the letter together, and while fully sharing my indignation at the conduct of the enemy hardly see that anything can be done to discover whether the plans are loss lost or not.However should you suggest or should be able to point out any manner in which a search for it can be carried on by Jennie over there, we shall be happy to do what we can to aid in the matter even at this distance as it is clearly our duty to endeavor to obtain for the Emperor the plans that seems to be missingJennie tells us in the leter that it is clear the spies have quite determined upon their own line of conduct.whatever they might have accomplished no one knows and no one else has been able to do anything in the matter.Even the girl and boy scouts have aided general Kindernine in his search for the plans.Every one has reason to believe from what emperor Vivian had suspected that the plans was a very important one, that if God intended it should never reach the enemys lines it would never do so.

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He asked every one plainly if they were aware of the existance of any place in which it was likely that Emperor Vivian had placed it.To this Hanson himself, said that he had never seen the plans, that he couldn't understand it and that he did not know where Emperor Vivian had placed it, for aught he knew spies might have taken it, as well as his own ducuments.As to hiding places he knew of no hiding place whose existence he could in accordance with the dictates of his conscience divulge. So that is where we are at present Miss Aron Angeline Jennings..I believe that Jennie Turner is going to try to get a c duplicate copy of the plan that he has in hispossession admitnd under the circumstances as proff proof of Emror Vivians intentions.But she owned to us or to me rather in this letter that she thought it very doubtful whether she should be able to do so, especially as Emror Vivian had stated to her that since the loss is discovered heintended to make alterations, and it would be quite possible therefore to frustrate the enemy by that means."

For a few minutes Angeline Jennings studied the letter over, and then firs first asked;

"Areyou sure this came from Jennie Turner?"

"It certainly did."

Angeline laid down the leter letter, and after thinking for a time said;

"Well Gertrude dear the singular disappearance of the plan is strange but we must not let the matter rest, but shall have Jennie investigate, to make a closer search of the room than before to find out if the plans are in anh any secret place.In the second place Gertrude we must go on and tri try to get there as soon as we possibly can.I hope our own situation will not be affected by the loss of the plan for at the time when the plan was made, Emperor Vivian signed your name making it as your sole authorship.This assignment was of a binding character and of course continues to hold good.We shall consider it our duty to keep up correspondence with her."

Little as Gertrude had thought of herself from the time when she first learned that the plan was missing, the news of the generals death, the destruction of the fleet attacking Mic-Whirther Janet, and the Vivian Girls still miss ing made her almost despair.She had formed no plans for herself but had vaguely contemplated the necessity of giving up the expedition as soon as it was decided that the plans could not be found, and try to find and get a Blenglighomenean Creature to fly with her to the christian army.However as she well knew there was no occassion no opportunity for her to do this for none were around.Nevertheless she hoped she would be enabled to carryout without difficulty some plan she might determine upon . Angeline Richee soon appeared, having first gone to Gertrudes tent, and learning where she went came to Angeline Jennings headquarters and was ushered in.Upon the recep receipt of the letter ann announcing the death of the good general who had been their friend so long, she told nothing of it to Angeline Richee just then but now when Angeline Richee asked the reason for the summons Gertrude related to her the whole circumstances.

Angeline Richeee had not known previously, Emperor vivians intentions of what he was going to do concerning Federalsconcentration against him, being only told that he intended to push his way through when the opportunity present ed itself and had considered that the agreement carried out by his fellow Court and generals was to arrange ways to give this glandelinian army a licking which was never heard of before. Angeline Richee was surprised of the loss and she showed her regret equally as bad as Gertrude did.

"Of course"said Gertrude the loss of emperor Vivians plan,,, my dear ftie friend : afects you as much as it does me as there can be no doubt that he had made som pre provisions in hisplans for the regular movements which he had so kindly promised his daughters would send their arch enemy flying for shelter.This opportunity of coursunless the plan is found he will of course lose.I haveing been and am a generals Neice, and having also been a generals daughter I know that for any one to win any victory in the army conflicts it is necessary for all generals to keep the utmost secrecy of all plans they made,and therefore as I know as much of military affairs as any general does I can probably assist hi , and though it was a shock to me, it was good too to have recieved the news from Jennie as that will be a lucky strike for him through her.I'll frsu frustrate Federal myself even from this distance. I now have only eighty miles more to go to get there and by heaven I' bound to make it before the end of this month or I'm not the nick name Gertrude Angeline but a dumb dora failure and I mean it.My mind is made up.I have had good schooling , I have been calculating things up,and find that we can all get busy making our own plans to either have the Emperors found or frustra e frustrate Federal myself in other ways without making any difference in the distance of which I am from there as we can rely on our telegraphic instruments.

And Angeline you will be able to see that for yourself.Our country is more at stake now than before and I'm afraid I'll have to agree with Mildred Maxwell in her debatements.You need therefore feel no hesitating in accepting my own plans.It is not going to be a large plan that'll take long to form out but I know if it is carried out it will make a great deal difference in the awful situation and it will be a great pleasure to me to know that Jennie consend me a letter on how the battle turned out in case I do not get there before it starts..Ans it makes all the diference in the world whether one ha s four or one single plan made up.You wrote once six months ago to me and told me of the handsom present Violet and her sisters made you at parting for doing them a favor that astonished the world world on h a hering of.....

This my friend and companion I should keap if I were you as a reserve only to be touched in cases of unexpected difficulties or needs.And besides no one can say when such needs may occur.I hope you will not pain me by saying you don't think the plan of mine won't work because nothing you can or will say willalter my determination to go through with it, and it will be also of course very much more l pl easant to me to know that it will be a greater pleasure to you to help mepull it through as it is to me to help Emperor Vivian, w while his good daughters are still missing..... I have heard several tije times from Radcliffe and little , dear little Jannie too, they are all well in high sp rits and they have asked me to tell you of their remembrances to you.I do not yet give up all hope after all as at first I did the plan may be found one of these days, but it is just as well that we should not build in the slightest upon it, and so I'm going to act.."

"Gertrude dear it is awfully good of you to think of the country that way.After what you say, and after what I have read of in this lon g telegram, of course I cannot doubt of it, that you can do something, and if the trouble would in the slightest way inconvience you I'll lend all the help that is necessary.But as you say that now since Violet, and her sisters, are still missing, we two and some of the others like Gracedelinia, Mildred, ad so forth must act for a time in their places, represent them ifpossible, and what we may accomplish the nation will thank us very heartily for it.I believe I could guess a way to allow Hanson Vivian to give Federal a good sock on the jaw.I fancy that a good many generals in our armies havi have nothing to do about it, or cant do anything, and I suspect if the plans were so cleverly taken that it may have been those "Mutt and Jeff spies"at work.Of course we all known in war times, and such an awful l war like this things are not what we like, and even lots of men get commissions who would not have done so when the army was only less than a pinhead of its size as it is now and was considered as a gentlemanly profession instead of a real fighting machine.Howeverever as you say it is a good deal more pleasant seeing Federal getting thrownoff his own guard, than heam having a chance to do Emperor vivien's army.Despite our adventures on this raft you know Gertrude we are getting on good here, but it will enable us to do something.I think in another week we shall have gone further than before, that we shell be over half this peril, and shall then begin to reach Evangeline St Claire providing the conflagration does not beat us to it."

"We could depend on all of them here to help us."said Gertrude.They are all jolly, here, always up to some good fun or other friendly together and loving too and willing to do anything. I always thought when the boys would be in the military service they would be rather serious but it seems to me there is ever so much more fun here among them, than among those with whom I used to go to school.In school you know I got off very weel because you see, what with school, and my parent being a general I had learned to be like them and take things good temperedly,and when they all see that you are as ready for fun as they are they soon give up bothering you."

"There is something serious however in this letter too"said Angeline. Jennie also states on a smaller description that she had before the plans were missing has discovered her door screwed up when shecwent back after mess, and her boots full of water..Then when she had laid down in bed to rest up for the afternoon some one must have got a ladder and threw a lot of mud into the bedroom in the middle of the night.Of course she has done all she can to get the case investigated, for she really is a good spy herself, and explained to all of the girlscouts of Violet and her sisters commends that it may have been the "Mutt and Jeff" gang.This has been an awfully long telegraphic note w she wrote, and how long she took to do it I do not know. But anyhow Gertrude don't tell it to anyone else or our whole force will be upset about the case,and then they may not have courage to do our work."

"I'll keap it a secret."she said....."Further as we see here Jennie also wrote that she had failed to induc induce any one to accept the copy of the original plan, as an alteration of it that way would be fatal if it was already in the hands of the enemy.She had however obtained an order from Hanson author

ing authorizing her througbutly to have the whole place searched, and to take down all wait wainscotting and topull up any floors that might appear likely to conceal any hiding place, while Hanson had issued orders that all officers of any rank trying to leave camp should be held and searched before allowed to go, even if to undress them entirely to make the search.The generals were so indignant that they had even their own headquarters ransacked from top to bottom for any hidden spies.Jennie herself had five carpenters of the army and two military masons with her, and she tapped every squ r squ are wall of square foot of the walls of the house, took down the wainscotting wherever there was the slightest hollow sound, lifted lots of the flooring, and even wrenchedup several of the hearthstones, but could not find a thig thing whatever.There was a staircase leading from behind the wainscotting in Emperor Vivians own room to a door covered with ivy and concealed from view by high bushes to the left of the house, and though it looked as if the ivy had evidently not been dustirbed as long as it grew there, this passage even was investigated but nothing found except footsteps that look strange. Jennie truly regrets that the search should have been so unsuccessful, and can only say that all that could be be done had been dow done.That the spies may have the plans she has not the sligh test shadow of a doubts unless of course Emperor Vivian tore it up before this, when he had to go away because of his illness.As to that she can give no opinion and indeed as it is a matter in which us girlscout leaders are concerned our judgement as to the probabilities is much as correct as Jennie's.I too suspen suspect that "Mutt and Jeff fellows.As I expected, they will put the country into a bottom somecday and so as soon as I ever meet up with them again I'm going to do some shooting and I don't mean maybe.Jennie has requested me to destroy all papers and letters that she sends me after I have looked them over.This of course I have done and shall do.I nee need hardly say that in no case could I have consented to act if it was not for this.In conclusion I will say that we will do the work ourselves, and that Federal will blush wh with shame when we are through with him."

Angeline Richee was scarcely disappointed indeed at the news of the letter for she had quite made up her mind that the plans would not be found.These two professional International Spies had clearly made up their minds to deprive Emperor vivian and his brother of their chances to win in case Federal would attadk attack and if they felt sure they might be apprehended they would destroy or conceal the plans in some fresh place where the searchers would never be likely to look for it.She did not think it likely therefore that the plans had been hidden in any hiding place for an y thing like that might be discovered by such clever professional spies, and she felt assured that were it discovered it would be now found empty.

"Very well"said Gertrude in a quiet determined voice, as she closed up the leste leter."Poor Jennie has failed..Now I shall take up the matter even here.I dare say you think you have won Mr Professional spies, that you can make general Pugnose Federa/ Federal master of the situation.You will see the battle has not yet begun.It will last however, I can tell you all your lives, or mine, and I'llvsee to it that General Federals Pugnose will be flatter than usual."

While Gertrude and all the other girlscout officerswere at Mess that evening al altogether unexpected event took place.
Another strange telegraphic letter arived from some unknown source.Upon opening it, for it was addrreesed to Angeline Jennings, it was found to contain ancoffer upon the part of some strange person to settle the sum of a hundred thousand a year for life upon Angelinia Aronburg upon the conditio condition only that the allowance would be not forthcoming unless she would not do anything in the matter about the lost plans, and the disappearance of the Vivian Girl Princesses.The Telegraphic letter was addressed to Angeline Jennings, yet quserer t still the letter was meant for Angelinia Aronburg, and after reading it she passed it to Gertrude without a qord.she was too surprised to say anything for the moment, especially as so many others were at mess, and she surprised Miss Jennings by laying the letter beside her untill supper was over, and every one except Angeline nichee, Miss Jennings, and Penrod had gone out.These she had retained by signal.

"Well Gertrude what do you think of it?" she asked."Isn't that a good bribe.?"

"What do you think of it yourself?"she replied.

Angeline Jennings hesitated, and then said;

"Well Gertrude it is a sort of a thing that for us all requires so much thinking about that I have had scarcely n any time to turn it over in my mind yet, especially with all the other officers eating here at the time and having no idea what this lon g telegram contained.I would rather reallly hear what you think about it as you are the superior...."

Gertrude remained silent, and she went on"Of course it would be a very nice thing indeed for any one to have such a provision for life but I wouldn't see sell my countrys cause for anything."

A slight smile passed across Gertrudes face, and Angeline Jennings saw that that was not at all the way in which she (Gertrude) looked at it.

"That is just like you girlscout leaders." she said a little pettishly."You ask us girls what we think about things when you have perfectly made up your minds what you mean to do, whether we agreeee with you or not, because you have the higher commissions...."

"WellI don't think that is often the case with us.Still Angeline I did want to see whether the matter would have struck you at once in the same light in which I see it, and I percisve that it has not.What think you Miss Richee."

"That letter is suspicious."

"What thin k you Penrod?"

"My opinion is the same."

"Well Penrod, let me hear your view of yhe the matter. I dare say we girls may agree with you when t you tell us wh t what it is."

"Well then"girls"began Penrod rather seriously"It appears to me that we cannot accept this offer for any cause."

The girls looked a little surprised.The situation of the country and its g cause was not in any good circumstances, and assured as they had been at the signal victory of the christian armies at Cedernine, they had not endeavored to investigate further.The disappearance of the plan, and the failure of any one to locate Violet, and her sisters had disappointed their homes, Gertrude was discouraged and almost in despair and all the combination of these past horrible disasters had raised many anxious thoughts respecting the nations direful future,and the offer contained in the letter had therefore sunk her s i still more, and filled her with suspicion .Therefore she greatly valued Penrods judgement and therefore replied;

"Why Penrod dea dear...?"

"Well you see Gertrude, we are all entirely agreed that these dreadful spies, those scoundrels that locked me that day in the den of rattlenskaes are making efforts to deprive Emperor Vivians army of an y chances to whip or frustrate general Pugnoses po puro purpose near Evangeline St Claire.They if they could not take it along with them have concealed or destroyed Emperor Vivions plans, so he cannot remember how to carry it out, and are at present even in the christian armies still.They are hard to detect too so clever are their disguises.Now I do not think that under these circumstances we can accept such a bribe when we know what it means.To do so would be practically to acquiescene in what we consider the robbery of our great Emperor whose beaut iful girls His Princely daughters have so bedr befriended us and me in par ticular,and the ace acceptance would of curse involve friendly relations with Our Lords and their enemies,a thing which believing as we do that even the producer of this telegram are acting wickedly, would be distateful in the extreme not to say impossible, and if we do this, we might as well throw our uniforms off and put on the grey and fly the Glandelinian flag on our raft."

"Of course you are right Penrod dear." Angeline Richeee herself said,,, rising from her seat and going over and kissing Penrod tenderly."I had not thought of it in that light at all, did not even think it was a bribe so bad as that.In fact I had had hardly thought of it at all, except that it would be nice to see Gertrude recieve such a good huge sum supposing she could have used it for the cause."

"It would be nice indeed.But we surely need not be anxious about her"said Angeline Jennings.We may hope we'll all make a successful outcome of it.We hope too that we all may be spared long en enough to make some provisions for every one of our friends for of course we must now curtail our expenses of this trip down the flood and accomplish as much as we can .Lastly dear we need not be anxious, because we trust that God, and even His Blessed Mother will provide for us all should we be threatened with disaster.But even were I sure that we should all perish together, I would rather leave our own souls in the hands of God than acept money that would be the ruin of our cause by such a bribe.It is mere hush money and that's final its a condone and most abominable action, hush money so we won't reveal what we might know about the disappearance of the plan, and of Violet and her sisters faulire to be found.There is too another point from which this matter can be looked at.You see this curious condition they propose that the money shall be for feited unless we give up our expedition, sign off our service with the army as girlscouts and go home.Why should they propose such a condition.?"

"I am sure I don't know Angwline for of course we should never give our sanction to any such conditions when it is a strange kind of a bribe, and surely such persons would not disapprove of a choice that we approve of."

"Well they might "said Penrod."You know how biterly all the Glandelinian generals hate the Vivian Girl Princesses, and how they resented their placing themselves at the head of the armies.It is also quitepossible the foe generals may have had an idea of Empror vivians views about the situation Violet and her sisters were planning to have investigated, and are determined that the Christian nation shall not benefit through any efforts of the Vivian Girls by any means whatever, and this clause is specially designed so that in case the Vivian Girls are ever recovered, th the enemy may be able if noth stop their plan s---at any rate to stop Emperor Viviansplans.That is the only inner interpretation that I can give to this condition."

"Very likely that is so Penrod."Really these Glandelinian generals are getting more wicked and detestable every day."

"Penrod smiled at Gertrudes vehemence."There is still another reason why we cannot accept the bribe.By the enemy Violet, and her sisters have been defrauded of much of their own rights as much defrauded as their father, and their mother and Aunt, as you see by their letters sent us are determined not to sit down quietly under the wrong done them, and the whole nation, just because the Glandelinians hate our Poor Dear Blessed Lord.What those two Noble queens mean to do I have not the slightest idea, nor do I thin k there is the most remote possibility that any Glandelinian authorities will ever be able to frustrate them.Women you know are adamant. And Jennie Turner has made a most throughout search of Emperor Vivians headquarters, and do what she wl will, she cannot have any more opportunity of searching as she has done. Still she too had something on her mind.she had notified Emperor Robert Vivian asking him where he had hid the plans, and he denied that he ever hid them in any secret place.Therefore she intends to make some attempt or other to recover the plans or have them altered, which if done will be disasterous to general Federal before any of the Manleys can come to his aid.Therefore we cannot but regard her as our best assistant in this matter. N ow were we to accept the bribe we should in fact be acquiescing, not only in the wro wrong done to every one of our friends and the horrors done to the country in general but in that done to violet, and her sisters our dearest friends, and playing the drama of Judas who betrayed our Lord.We should in fact be going over to the enemy.We could not take the bribe and even tacitly connive in the efforts of Jennie to find the plans."

"I agree with you entirely Penrod.It would be impowr impossible; only I do wish you had managed tosay all this before letting me be so foolish as to say I thought wwe ought to take it"said Angeline richee, almost hanging her head.

"You didn't say so dear." Penrod said smiling."You only gave expression to the first natural thought of any girl that it wo ld be a nice thing for the cause, not knowing it was a bribe as you did not see the latter. There fore you had no opportunity of giving the matter any further consideration, and I was quite sure that as soon as you thought the mattter over you saw it in the same light as I did.But I think before we knowing the address of this sender ,send off our reply we should put the mater before both Jean and Mildred, and also Jane Melfort themselves our chief advisers.I have no doubt whatever what their answers will be, but at the same time as this is something very serious they ought to know of the two letters, and the offer which has been made to us as a bribe...."".

CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE.

CONSULTATION.

CALVERINIA DISASTER SCPU SCOURGE. TERRIBLE DESOLATION AND SUFFERING.

ON DETATCHMENT....."

Gertrude Angeline, was fully justified in her conviction, that there need be no doubt as to the view Mildred would take of the bribe offer. The girlscout had hitherto been in entire ignorance indeed both as to the plans that were believed to be either stolen or missing, and there was no doubt she had no idea of its existance. Gertrude waited till all had finished the supper and then she, Angeline Richee, Miss. Jennings, her sists, sister, and Penrod repaired to their consultation tent, and even not only summoned Mildred, but all the relisble officers .As they were called in therefore, Mildred her self was entirely surprised and greatly discouraged when she saw the peculiar look on Gertrudes face, and was told to remain standing while the rest were ordered to down sit.Then Gertrude said;

"I'm somewhat worrid about something, and though I summoned you all, it is to you Mildred only that I wish to have a serious talk, and the others must help you and us with opinions.But your decision I'll accept. Do you know wildred,That we all have had a narrow escape from seeing the country suffer a more serious disaster than ever if it had not been for the work of Jennie Turner!"

"A greater disaster Gertrude!What do you mean.You look as if you had seen a ghost, and that you had been crying.Do you mean there's another awful big flood joining this one!"

"Well in one way yes, the Aronburgs Run is flooding the whole cour country through which it runs because of this flood running into it, but that is not what I wished to talk about. We never told you, but I and Angeline Richee there, made up some very important plan for Empror Vivian, and we had it sent to him by Jennie.Jennie had confided to me and all of us her intention of dividing or having the army divided into formations so the foe could make no progress whatever."

"What.!That's a wonderful plan, Gertrude, but why look so worried about it? "

"Yes my dear I am worried about it, and so are these four with me.General Federal is concentrating upon Trinoquer near Angelinia St Claire,and every every force that he has accumulated during the past four months is moving upon Trinoque.That means a fierce action will soon occur at Evangeline St Claire."

"Then Emperor Vivian meant that a disaster is impending there, how is it that we cannot do anything to help.What is the trouble.I see nothing wrong!"

"Not yet, but let me tell you now.Simply my dear, because the plan, Hansons important papers, and a ducument by which General Kindernine left the whole situation to the Emperor and Hanson has either been stolen by two spies or is missing." Then the two letters from Jennie were shown to her,, and Gertrude explained the strong grounds there were for believing that the Mutt and Jeff spds may have secured them or hid them in some secret place in the headquarters of som general, and that this place of concealment was therefoe only known to the foe International Spies."

"But those wicked spies c u could surely never be so successful as that Gertrude.Maybe Emperor Vivian in his illness does not remember where he placed them.I know of course those spies who resemble Mutt and Jeff in the funnies, if that is not just merely their disguise are dangerous.Still I don't think it likely they were there for how could they get in ,and if they nailed up Jennie's bedroom door how could they do it without being seen even though using screws is nioseless."

"There is a mystery there.No I think in their way they have been extremely successful Mildred, the only ones they fear m r more than any person, is Violet, and her sisters, I and Empror Hanson, and of course Violet and her sisters are still missing, and perhaps if emperor Vivian had left half his important papers lying round lying round carelessly, nothing would have been found.Nothing seems to have been raided or broken into in emproor Robert Vivians headquarters, but Hansons windows have been jimmied, and his safe and lockers blown, and his desk smashed to pieces in order to get what the spies were looking for.But if they didn't do it themselves they hired som expert, for they certainly did not dare face Hanson, or let him see them, and as for Hendro Dargar, they would hide from him as if from a ghost.They feared and do fear Dargar most partly no doubt because he's an expert, no disguise can fool him, while he can trap you, and principally on account of what Dargar is, and how he is at the guns, which I once believe they almost had one experience.Now it is in human nature Mildred, by by the advice ofour Blessed

Blessed Lord, if we wan t our own sins to be forgiven, we must forgive a wrong done to us, but it seems very hard to forgive a person you have wronged yourself, and that is the nature of these "Murtt and Jeff?Fellows.We know their identif ication, one is from Italy, and another came from spain.Maybe they are not such wicked fellows, only working for their own interests and big pay, and I know if they could get twice bigger pay from our government they would have immediately shifted sides.But we do not hire spies by wages, Glandelinia does.Anyhow I am convinced that it was somehow or other probably notthese spds at all as they are in Mylet zes army just now, and I believe it might be either som big blunder or someone trying to get a name for himself and therefore trying to prevent general Kindernine from getting these plans, than the spies getting it themselves, so that probably some one has concealed this w plans or rather refuse to point out its hidingplace.Of course Jennie promised this very evening to try by wireless telephone;;;;;

"The phone suddenly rang right in the room with a starling suddeness." Gertrude bading all to be quiet lifted the receiver.

"Hello who is this she called.?"

"Is that you Miss Aronburg.? Well this is Emperor Hanson Vivian himself. Emperor vivian is not sick after all, but someone has doped his food as the doctor found, and that is why he was overcome. Evidences from clues point that the two Professional spies have secured the plans.They were almost apprehended as they tridd to leave the lines, but they got awaythough they left their coats behind in their escape.Before they escaped they had been searched and nothing was found on them.The plans are gone nevertheless.I'm ringing off Gertrude, but wait till Jannie calls herself.She has further details.I'm going off to warn Emperor vivian .Goodbye."

"Gertrude explained what she had heard over the phone(wireless).

" It does seem hard"said Gracedelinia, that those spies escaped.How did they get there from Mylet zes army so soon, ad with this flood and forest fie.?"

"Those spies have a very clever idea of their own Grace,.Those Glandelini n spies and other will be the ruin of our cause if we can't frustrate them.But this is a matter into which we need not go any further.Well Mildred"she said turning to her, the telephone call just gave us a proof those two spies had been at work.Now I will read you this bribe telegram because I think you o g ught to know it has been written,and I will then tell you the reasons why the four of us chiefs thik think the strange bribe offer cannot be accepted..."

Mildred, and all the rest listened in silence untill Gertrude had finished the letter and the argument between her and her highest officers with the ex ception only of that relating to the situation and of the generals death ment ioned in the letter.When she had ceased explaining Mildred exclaimed indig nantly;;;

"Of course Gertrude, we could not take the money on such a bribe not even if it were ten thousand tims as much, and I'd have the briber face a firing squad too if I had the chance.Why we could not look Violet, and her sisters, and Empror Vivian in the face again.Besides how could h we do this when it would be the same as changing ourplaces with the enemy.We would be doing a very wicked thing, and be a traitor to Our Blessed Lord, who is so outrageously insulted by these glandelinians!"

"Very well Mildred. I and all the rest here were quite sure that you would agree with us, but at the same time I and the three other chiefs here thought it was perfectly justified before we refused the offer you should know the situation, first, and that the bribe was made.Whatever our sentiments on such an unusual subject are we should not have been justified in refusing without your knowledge an offer that might from a worldy point of view be Gertrudes interest to accept to use for the cause." declared Angeline Jennings.If it was not a bribe we could accept, but there's no way I think of finding out who wrote it, and what charcater the person is.I first suspected it might at that been a person trying to solve the mystery alone and get all the honer to himself or herself, if that is so I'd be willing to acept the money, but if it was or is hush money so the plans will not be recovered and the Princesses found, we'd rather shoot the one who offered the bribe whether it be boy girl, man or woman."

"Why Fenrod" Mildred said;"I would rather go home, and lay in bed all day than touch money from any such a bribing person as that.If we accept such a bribe then our countrys cause is sunk...."""

"The situation certai certainly is not at all very pleasant." Jane Melfort said quietly."Our very unpleasant voyage here on the raft from our very start shows the situation throughout the country as it is.We have been making the true acquaintance of disaster after disaster since we came in the wservice.We were nearly a month on the way now I presume or even longer

, as we were o so often waylaid, or had to stop on shore.Still that was quite a minor question with me.I now am glad the debute is over with Mildred for the present and so Mildred I am first going to have a talk with you personally. And one good talk face to face does more good than a score of letters.First I'll ask you a question.Do you still state your belief that our country is fighting a losing conflict?"

Mildred looked rather surprised,and the idea flashed across her mind that Jane was putting her to a test.

"I presume Miss Melfort from this question you ask, that you are as thr thoroughly convinced as I am myself that this plan whether still in existance or not or whether hidden somewhere in a building or taken off is causing a nature more serious than we even think?Is that why you asked me that qu estion."

"Yes indeed.You are of that nature Mildred, one thing I argue with you so often a o about, but the situation is better supposing it has not been destroyed."

"Do you think Jane that it might have been destroyed?"

"Well that I cannot say"the girl said gravely."I have of course though much over this matter since this council began.The news of this vexed me much for several good reasons.But you haven't answered my question. Do you still have that opinion."?

"I certainly do."

"Well that's settled "declared Jane."So do I."

Every one looked in blank amazement at Jane.

"What do you mean ?" asked Gertrude.

"Why the enemy literally have us at the throats.In the first place Gertrude, and you yourself Mildred have been good enough to place the matter in Fenrods hands, and to aurthorise me to act for you and it is always a sort of vexation to any of us professional girlscouts, when a country they are serviving is really losing its cause, especially when we are convinced through evidence that we are in the right.But that should not even discourage us.We all have learned or read in history of the American Revoltion in the years from II77b I7I6 to I7I8 or something like that and how in the first five years they were really losing for facts, and how the worm turned against the Brittish in the end.Well we are in the same situation at this period..In the second place there is full evidence that we are just now losing, and I am much disturbed that the wishes of Jennie Turner should not have been carrid out, and what makes it far more serious than even the excitement over those floods and other disasters is the disappearance of Violet, and her sisters. Thirdly I feel now that we ourselves are somewhat to blame in the matter in that we did not represent the Vivian Girl Princesses, and to notify their own followers the entire imprudence of allowing their father Emperor Vivian to be placing his valuable papers in a place where should anything happen suddenly they might not be found when needed, or where spies might be able to secure them. Of course I have or could not have anticipated this unusual case.Still we I believe are partly to blame that we did not have the scouts of the Princesses or Jenkis warn Empero Empror vivian of the possibility of what in fact has already taken place.Unless we ourselves do something, and right away, Federal will have a opportunity to strike Emperor vivians army a crushing blow.We made plans for your father Angeline Richee you remember and we won.We can make plans for Empror vivian, and have him flatten Federals pugnose good and proper.Lastly and she smiled," "I have a personal feeling in the matter.I have lost a reputation that added considerably to my hopes.I made the plan that is lost."

For a moment all was silent.

"I do not thinkany of us couod could be to blame for the matter Jane, "said Jean."I am sure we are not.And we could not have forseen that any of the enemy could send in professional spies that were likely to turn out not only spies but thieves.As Jennie's letter said even Emperor Hansons pocket book was rifled."

"Well that is a strong expression Jean dear-"said her big sister, Minnie "though natural enough I must admit in your position as my sister.All spies are classed as military bandits whether their stealing is sinful or not, and spies always if caught face a firing squad.Yet you see there is a difference between concealing, getting away with, and disclosing.Emperor vivian himself concealed the plans.The spies have done something to prevent it from being found so Emperor vivian cannot carry it out originally and will have to alter it.""And enable general Raymond Richardson Federal to takepossession of Evangeline St Claire"said Heidid Sessmann."

"Quite so "Miss Sessmann."I am not defending the conduct of any glandelinian spies, for their work is morally dishonest in the extreme, for they'll even

resort to the most horrible vandas vandalism to gain their means like we have experian ed already following the results of these awful disasters, but I doubt whether it were the two Professional"Mutt and Jeff"spies."

"Well now girls"put in Catherine Estrabrook, and you in particlar Dolores, I want you to let me know whether you suspect any spies have secured the plans, and finding they could not escape the army with it in theirpossession, had not destroyed the plans which too is amore punishable offence."

"Cert inly the destruction of the plan if it brings the army disaster, ed in order that those who destroyed it might enable the enemy to get in possession of important strongholds, would be criminal, and not playing the game of war fair."Said Dolores."What do you think Angeline."To her sister.

"Well I don't know, I have thought it over a in every sense and think the balance of the probabilitiy of the spies even getting possession of it is not true.They might have searched for it and failed.In the first place if they were the two "Professionals" they doubtless might have considered the plans was or is so securely hidden there is little if any chance of its being discovered.Probably Emperor vivian has forgotten in his strange posioning where he had placed it.Only the vivian girls know, and their return only will regain it.That this is so , we know from the fact that although Jennie Turmer had the Emprors headquarters racksacked from top to bottom, pulled down wainscotting, liftnd floors ed tried every imaginablepoint which either she or the men who were working with her suspected to be a likely spot for a hiding place they did not succeed in finding it.and stranger yet, it was said over the phone that the spies escaped but left their uniform pants and coasts behind and nothing was even found anywhere in their possession when they were searched.So evidently the spies did not find the plan, or either sent some one ahead of them with it, who evidently escaped.....Now I have suspected that Glandelinian spies wicked as they are, cruel, and deciatful, as well as dangerous have at times somewhat preculiar ideas asto morality and are apt to steer vecy close to the wind.They may consider themselves perfectly justified in preventing any one finding the plans if they too could not soothing their consciences by the reflection that by such an act they are com otting no offense against the christian army of which the law burns them at the stake for instead of shooting, but while doing this they won't shrink from the absolutely criminal offense of vandalism among ruined towns and villiages and among the bodies of the dead. I do not say that now these two "Professionl professionals have entered upon the path they have that they would not destroy the plan if they thought there was a chance of it being discovered if they had been forced to hide it themselves.I only say that thinking it to be absolutely safe they are unlikely to f oerfor perform an act which if discovered, and they are caught, would bring them under the power of the military law as to cause them to face the death penalty of stake burning.And also girls all you o you, the two spies may consider themselves also free to believe or if not actually to believe, to try and convince themselves that for aught the know Emperor vivian for fear of his plans being discovered and known may have destroyed it himself or hid it in some secret chamber, and that they could not therefore find it at all.Upon these grounds if caught the spies know, with no evidence on their person, if they cannot get away, they are not in danger of a death penalty.Therefore I fir l firmly believe the plans are still in existence but I acknowledge that so far as its utility is concerned it might as well have been destroyed, by Emperor Vivian, or Violet- and her sisters to prevent it falling into the hands of the foe..."""

""Wally Angeline Jennings"said Penrod himself,,, no doubt from the lengthy description you are thinking tha t you might as e well have expressed this opinion to me o end the others on paper, and that we all have troubled our selves very unnecessarily in making this journey from General Richees army, to Emperor Vivians."

"Why yes Penrod,I do not deny that this was in my mind..."

"It would have been useless then for me and all the others too, to make this dangerous journey had this been all Angeline." said Hattie Kauffmann. "I am very glad to have heard your opinion, which agrees exactly with that which I myself have formed, but it was scarcely with the ob object of eliciting it, that we should have attempted to continue our journey.We will now proceed to that part of the usbject.We all agree with your statement, and also Jane Melforts that theplansmay be still in Emperor vivians headquarters, or that it is hidden in some other building.The next question is how it is it to be found!"

"Ah that is a most difficult question indeed Hettie." said Francis Lillian.

"Yes it is difficult but I do not think it is impossible"said Heidi.

"Why!" asked Jane.

"We have done our best it seemed and failed.No one have any further

suggestion to offer on the situation no plan to that occurs to us by which we might discover it!"

"None whatever."Mary Stanck said decidedly."Jennie turner as that long telegra telegraphic letter states has done all that she could do, and have I'm afraid dismissed the question altogether from mymind or her mind rather.She had the aurthoritiy of Emperor Hanson to search, and she had sewrched very fully, and has reported her failure to the Emperor.And the power to search would cer tainly not be renewed unless upon some very strong grounds indeed."

"I suppose not"said Angeline Richee"That is what I have expected. ell it seems to me Jennie having done all in herpower for Emperor vivian, and having now been forced to abandon her search, it is time for us to take the matter in hand."

All the others except.Gertrude, Penrod, and the Jennings sisters looked surprised.

"I do not quite understand Miss Richee. How can we ourselves take it in hand....?????????"

"No! Well I can tell you Ruth, that we all are going to take a hand in doing so, at Gertrudes and my degree.We ourselves are not under any conditions going to sit down quietly, and go boat riding merely on this confounded raft till we reach the lines, and see Emperor Vivian robbed of not only his plans but his daughters, and the safty of his army as well.It's the same to me as if this happened to my own father. I have quite made up my mind that we should all devote our own means to this matter, and so some of you here can probably give me some advice-----for I dare say you would try to dis uade me, and my resolution which is the same as Gertrudes is unalteratable- but to ask you others to give me and her what aid you can in the matter."

"We all shall be glad to give you aid in any way."said Maud Angelinia if you Miss Richee will point out to me the direction in which our assistance can be of any use.I suppose you and Miss Gertrude together have formed some sort of a plan, for I own forone that I can see no direction whatever in which we can set about the matter.And to attempt anything too hasty is dangerous."

"My intention is Maud, to have Jennie Turner search for this hiding place herself at night time when every one else are asleep."

Both Gertrude and the others including Penrod raised their eye brows in surprise.

"To have Jennie Turmer do the searching herself, Maud.Why she did it already.How do you propose to have her do more than she had already done, or even so much, when any fresh disturne disturbance of the house would be out of the question!"

"That I quite admit Miss Aronburg.Still there is surely some strange hiding place that Jennie or the spies may have overlooked and it is morally certain also that this hiding place is opened by the touching of some secret spring.It cannot be found by merely tearing down wainscotting, pulling up the floors or any other way.And besides either Emperor Vivian or any of his daughters,it would seem would have used it habitually as a place of some sort for papers of some military value.Either one certainly therefore , did not neee need to break down or to u pupp pull up anything.They opened it as they would open any other cupboard or secret place by means of a key or by touch ing a secret spring.You agree with me all you other girls!"

"Certainly Miss Maud Angelinia ."said Penrod."All in favor of her statement say I.If not say .No."

Every one"said I."

"All right"continued Penrod."We all have no dou bt in our minds that this hiding place whether a chamber or a small closet is opened in a way you speak of/."

"Very well then, all that has to be looked for is a spring.No force is necessary, all that is to be done is to find the spring."

"But then upon certain second thought" put in Mary Stanck,"Could not the foe spies have thought of looking for the spring!"

"Yes, but how is it to be found even by they!I believe Jennie and her assistances tried every square foot of the building."

"I have no doubt she did"said Heidi, but it was necessary to try every square inch, I will not say of the whole building, but of certain rooms and passages."

"And I think we may assume "said Ruth Mic-Whirther"that it is not in the servants quarters we need to think of for her looking.Such a hiding place would be contrived where it could be used by the owners of the house without observation from their dependants and would therefore either be in the drawing room, dining room, the principal bed chambers, or the passages, corr idors or stairs, between or as adjoining these."

"I quite follow you in your reasoning, Miss Mic-Whirther"said Heidi"and agree with you.Doubtless the place is so situated as to be what I may call

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handy to the owners of the Hall, but as I believed she searched there, I do not see how she is going to find it in making another search."

"Couldn't she sent some one to follow or shadow these two secret Professional spies, and try and capture them on the sly.?"

"Try to capture them on the sly Miss Maud Angelinia!"Cried Heidi."

"Yes indeed."

"But how is that possible under the circumstances. Jennie herself is the last person on earth who would ever try such a thing.It's like following two devils into their hellholes."

"It can't be that dangerous."

"I can prove it."said Heidi.I"I know them two spies as well as I know my own self.If you don't even think I'm right, ask Master Penrod and Gertrude to tell you their experiences with "Mr Mutt, and Jeff."

"I agree with you Hi Heidi"said P.n Penrod."

"But Jennie „urner could manage some way.They could frustrate her if they had any idea of her identiy but that is just what she would not intend they should have. My plan would be that she could send some one to go to the enemys lines and act as a child slave or servant to general Federal.The ones who are sent could get the child slaves to help.They are always willing.Once ther, there when they could got into the headquarters of these too spies, they could examine every square inch of the rooms and places where they might too have a hiding place.Every knob, knot, or inequality of any kind in the wood work and stonework shall be pressed, pulled, or twisted, untillhthey find it, and Jennie could do the same in Emperor Vivians headquarters.I am aware the task many occupy a week or even months, for of course their opportunities would be limited and dangerous.Still whether weeks, or months, any one strong hearted enough could undertake it, and cary o it through if their lives are spared untill that had time entirely and completely to carry it out."

All the rest were silent, from sheer astonishment.

"Do you reallly think, or reallly mean that you think Jennie Turner could get any one to go there within the enemy's lines whether child scout or man to do as a servant or a child slave in order to shadow those professional spies.Heidi Sesemann!!!!!!!""

"Certainly I do." she replied quietly."I suppose the work will be no harder for them, than it had been for the Vivian Girl Princesses to at tempt the same thing, and whereas they do it so frequently a and had escaped so often, I believe others too could done it also.I do not see even the slighrest difficulty or objection in that part of the business, and if they can play the part well I do not think it could be as dangerous either as many of you suppose.Jennie of course would not need to go herself, at least she would not be allowed to do so, but she could make arrangements for a l letter being forwarded here, and for ours too to be forwarded there untill we manage to reach emperor Vivians army. And she shall have the satisfaction that while she gets the spies to be engaged upon this work her own efforts too would be accumulating in success for our countrys benefit.I own that I can see no difficulty whatever in such a plan being carried out.Now as to the assistance that we all could give her.It could perhaps have been more readily given by Walter Starring for naturally he would know personally most of the assistants of the emproor as the majority of them belong to the Abyssinkilians.But Walter Starring is away on a search for the Vivian Girl Princesses as well a as Jack Evas Evans.At any rate I sure think it better that neither he nor Fredrick Nance should have any compl c complicity whatever in my own plans.I therefore lay it before all the rest of you.Wya What I propose in the first place is when the two agents get to Manleys lines is to find out what child slaves found in the Glandelinian camp will be of any assistance in finding a vacany vacancy that might be caused by som other child slave being shifted to another place which is sometimes the case,, secondly if no such vacancy is likely to occur some plan of proposition of exchanging places could accomplish that, thirdly the vacanxy must occur in the case of some child slave whose work would naturally like in the part of the enemy generals head quarters the agent is likely to examine, finally it must be arranged between trustful child slaves that the agent could be so recommended as to ensure of him or her of getting the place ."

All the rest were silent for a some time.

"Certainly after all your plan des seem feasible, HeididiWsaid Gertrude herself while Evangelinia Glorinia nodded Her agreement.

"And "then said glorinia herself" "It does seem to me that if once installed in the way you propose in the egener enemy generals headquarters,and prepared to spend as you ssay,weeks or even months in the seardh search, it.is pos sible and even probable that in the end one of the agentsmight light upon the secret spring, or be able to corner the two "professional spies" and make them confess and therefore solve the mystery.But would Miss Turner do it. Would she send any one where she would not go or al be allowed to go herself? You know those who do this must be prepared to face all kinds ofunknown perils

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unpleasantness and great difficulties, and even dreadf l hardships,proposing the one who goes, goes as a child slave.And worse of all the agent will have for all this time to acco associate with all kinds of dreadful Glandelinian soldiery, to do child slave work of the most disagreeable kind, to relinquish all the luxuries and appliances to whdh they have been accustomed in their time within the ch i christian camp, and possibly to fail at last, or be discovered---and go playing the harp with the angels.Still if any one can be found who is prepared and brave enough to face all this, there does appear to me a possibility of your suggestion for this enterprize being crowned with success."

"I have thought ot over, Mary, and I believe we could find some one who would be quite prepared to make the sacrifices you mention, which however I am sure would be scarcely felt as sacrifices, workingas they shall be for the future of the cause.I'd go myself and do it if I would be permited."

"But you'll never get the permission Heidi." said Angeline Richee."I'll not allow a single soul to do anything on this raft no matter who they are.The idea, that's a dangerous sugestion.I doubt if Jennie would take for that plan."

"But could not not rely upon our assistance?" asked Hediid Heidi."

"If she does follow such a plan she shall have all the assistance I can give, assuredly Miss Seseman but non not one of us will do that kind of work though.The matter is by no means a simple one even though I do not see why it should not be successfully carried out.But I nor any one over or under me as officers would allow any child scout to go on a mission like that and neither would Jennie. An exprience man spy or agent alone would be allowed to go on such a almost fool hardy experience.We might sugest it to her and if she does not agree that's out."

"It must take time that I quite anticipate, Miss Richee."Time fortun fortunately, is of no consequence. "

"Well Heidi" Angeline Richee said, after some minutes in thought,"It's a matter that will requie require careful thinking over.How long do you think Emperor vivian will withhold attacking Federal?"

"Just as long as it is necessary." Heidi da said,"a week or a month."I do not think the agent need give his own name."

"But"nolores said suddenly"Surely the Professionals knew Both Penrod and Jennie turner in the time past."

"Certainly they did, and do still.But to begin with, that is nearly over a year or soago, before the Delight's Junction battle, and of course, she had changed very much since then."

"Not very much indeed Heidi"Gertrude said,"wor we had her often with us.I and any of you would know her her anywhere, and if you excuse my saying so she might pass at anyplace at ten years of age."

"So much the better for her purpose at present." Heidi replied."Ten years of age will do ve y very well for the age of a girlscout spyI should imagine that the Glandelinian generals would prefer a daring boyscout of that age to any young girl, besides you see, if it is necess ary to e employ a child slave they sooner would have a girl of course and a girl can do a better work of shadowing a man than a boy can as she is more shrewd.As to any one knowing Jen ninw i- in the first place the two professional spies will not have the advantage of having any meeting with her, and in the second place it is not so difficult for a girl to alter her appearance so as not to be recognized by another who has not seen her for over a year.Jennie's hair too is more brown than golden as it used to be thenland she wore it altogether differently.A little darker die on that, and on her eye brows, a child slaves bonnet and gown, would so alter her that those who see her now would not hardly know her, certainly th y they will do so.But you need not trouble about the suggestion of sending a child to the work, for in general I propose sending a man , for any girl scout who is a stranger will be mostly taken for one of the Vivian Girls by now.It is possible justpossible, that any o ne would know Jennie for there are so many disguise readers in both armies.Now as I hope we have quite settled the matter, I believe some or all of you ought to think the matter over before the final answer so we can decide upon the best plan for carying out my own suggestions, and while this is being done if there are an y others having suggestions we would like to hear it, as i this is indeed a very thrilling and interesting meeting."

Every one sat for some time in thought after this.It was certainly a daring scheme, requiring no little courage indeed in carrying it out, and needing most strong resolution,and self possession and extreme caution to bring it through, but where was there not a soul in the christian army among the men who did not possess these qualities.And Jennie herself had a clear

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head and she could grasp every point in the matter.There was really no reason why she should not succeed.But would she send any one.As long as she might be told there is a secret spring somewhere in Hansons headquarters she who was and is very patient would search fiercely for it first before she c would decidecupon sending n any one to go and shadow the "Professionals."And such a move would probably excite suspicion on both sides. And if Jennie was to send any one, the first difficulty was to get him settled at general Manleys headquarters.If she would do it, what would be the best way to set about that? It certainly was not as easy as she (He di) would think, it was even very risky, still if Jennie turner would agree to do it, she could and would fid so e some way of managing it.At any rate every one on board the raft too must act cautiously in this matter as possible, an d to avoid suspicion from the enemy must not appear in it in any speciall way whatever.And so they sat thinking untill at last Heidi, who had been a good deal surprised at recieving no answer passed among each, as was instructed By Gertrude a piece a paper, and a pencil so they should write down their suggestions.

After all had wrote down their opinion, except Gertrude who had hesitated to do so Angeline richee said it;

"Do you Know Heidi Sesemann the more I thin k over the matter, the more I feel that it is extremely difficult, and most dangerous to try and manage it from here.And it would be extremely dangerous for Miss Turner tooin emproor Vivians army also?"

"How could it be so?" asked Heididi.

"Why she would have to engage somone with steel nerves and courage to go over on such a trip to the enemys lines in the first place. and who ever was sent would have to stay in the enemy's lines some time before he could make the acquant quaintance of the child slaves at the enemy generals headquarters, and to get their trust in him. And he would l also have to pretend to serve the enemy which evidently he would shr ink from.and he would have to get veryintimate with the child slaves before he could venture to broach such a thing, for if he made a mistakel and the child slave may be one who may serve the enemy heart and soul, ad would go and tell the general that somsone had been trying to persuade her or him to betray the two professionals the suspicions of the general would be so aroused, that not only would the scheme become uterly hopeless but he too. would be arrested as a spy and pay the penalty of a spy.Not knowing what they do Heididi, many child slaves would betray a christian spy, as fast as sh enemy.You cannot trust them either when they do not know who you are.They take all strangers as foes."

""Yes I see the difficulty, Miss Richee for I thought it over in every way before I brought the subject before the council. Besides I don't the thought of this intermediate.No doubt of course J annie would chose a very trustworthy man.Still I don't like the thought of any one knowing the secret especially as the plan make may take so long working out."

"What I have been thinking Heidi is this."Said Ge t Gertrude."I know child slaves, and Miss Richee I believe you are slightly mistaken about that matter.A child slave won't betray you if they know you are their true friend.N o doubt the child slaves employed in any of the houses occupied by the enemy generals would take sides on this matter.Of course from our own efforts and from little Jannies exp rience as a slave, they know what the christian armies are fighting for, and evidently when they n know that the plans are missing they might help providing something would be done too to aid them to escape with the one whom they lend a helping han d.without knowing anything myself about the feelings of all child slaves in the army beyond what would probably be the case from the difference of character between Federal, the Manleys, and these two professional spies, I should imagine that they all are secret foes themselves of the enemy.This is really the case, for I have seen that myself from my spying expdition, and Violet and her sisters could prove a lot of that, and when any spy can learn to get into friendship with these little toilers he would be able toeasily open direct negotiatations.what struck me is this.The Gemini have a good powerful man our friend Gingigore, the man of a thousand faces, and if he could be sent, providing he is found he alone could do the work.He is well known by many child slaves who simply worship him, and he rescud many.The Gemini members who were over there with him when he posed as general Manley of course slept and took their meals and served as if they were Glandelinians, still going about as they did in the camp no doubt as "child slave"drivers, and they no doubt learned many things cleverly w from the slaves without any detection whatever.At the time the General Manley group were away, and I doresay the child slaves hadplenty tim to act, and it is probable the men gathered from their talk something of their sentiments tward all Glandelinians and knew which sidde they would likely go with.I might ask Jennie about the plan over phone, or by telegram."""""""""

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"I think the idea is a capital one, Gertrude but there is one detail I believe might be improved"said Jane Melfort."I imagine that instead of asking Jennie to notify Gingigore we could try and locate the man himself.We know where he is and he could easily be communicated by with telegraph."

Gertrude laughed."No doubt you are right Miss Melfort.That shall be done if possible.I must get into communication with Jennie first for her p approval though I don't know where the other of the Gemini are unless they are aiding Jack Evans in his search for Violet, and her sisters.I shall write her that we proposed this and shall tell her frankly that we wish to find out the opinions of her followers first about the missing plans,, ask her which of the searchers could be the most given to gossip with child slaves, and tell her to tell of his name as soon as she can answer by communication, then when we recieve an answer and hear what she has to say we can judge forourselves how far we can trust the man in the matter or whether to trust him at all.Perhaps we can summon George Zimmermon our German boy friend,and find out what he has tosay on the subject first."

"That would be just right.2said they.

Accordingly the boy was summoned.

"I think Heidi, and the rest of you"said Gertrude after the boy was seated that things that going to go far better than we even hoped.The girl w who brought George in said that fromwhat little talk and experience the lad has had with the girl and boy scoutsunder Violet, and her sisters he thought they all were attatched to emperor Vivian and his followers, and that the Vivian Girl Princesses were very popular with all the army.He said to me as he was coming with me that if Jennie Turner would agree to the pl n plan it might work.But the best part of it is that one of the boy scouts he knew by the name of Gelroege Radcliffe"whome the enemy know as the "Rattlesnake boy" took up recently with one of the girlscouts of higher rank, and he believes that they conspire a great deal against the enemy, and also recently it seems that he and little Jannie are greatly attatched in good work and friendship.If this is so it would be the very thing for Jennie Turner.One of us could suggest something to Radcliffe, and Jennie could help him get some man to shadow the two ""Professional spies."

"The very thing."Heidi said."Nothing could have turned out beter better.But who is Radcliffe.There is something strangely mysterious about him!"

"That is something through his own advice which I would never reveal till the proper time...."""" answered Gertrude.

The boy was then asked to stand up, and he obeyed and saluted. He was indeed a pleasantlooking young boy s and Gertrude was not at all surprised at the impression he had made upon Jean and all the others of her followers.

"All right George you may sit down now."Gertrude began."You know what I asked you to come here for!!!!!"

"You told me as you brought me that it was something to do with that letter about the missing plans at Emperor Vivians headquarters.Miss Aronburg."

"Yes that is it George.You know Miss Jennie Turner?"

"I certainly do."

"Did you know she was looking for the missing plans there, and wrote to me by telegram that it couldn't be found?".

"Yes Miss Aronburg, so I understood."

"Now what we wanted to ask you specially, George, was whether you can tell us what any of the girlscouts of Emproor Vivians daughters would think about sending somone accross to the enemys lines to investigate the loss and shas shadow to Professional spies.?"

"I couldn't tell Miss Aronburg, unless you tell me what spies they were."

"The ones who disguise themselves either to look like Mutt and Jeff" in the funnies or who are original in that feature."

The boy turned rather red in the face as he gave a start, and twisted his cap about in his fingers as he gasped;

"What .shadow those dangerous scoundrels.Why that's sucide."

"Well that was our proposition in our cons council we are holding."

The boy hesitated for a moment.

"Well Gertrude I don't know that I can say much about that.I don't think any one would be fond of making any trip over to the enemys lines as that and no one can shadow those two Professional spies.They got many secretly watching for any such move.Those spies are covered by their assistants in all they do and any one shadowing them would be shot down on the spot like a dog."

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"Just so George, that is what I thought was likely as I am well acquainted with them two fellows, having had some experience with them myself.I know a boyfriend of mine whom they locked in an attic filled with rattlesnakes because he would not reveal the hidingplace of a girl friend of his.Now the point I want to know George, and every one of them here is I may tell you interested and anxious in the matter of these plans being found for the good of Emperor Vivians army, is as whether there is in your opinion any one of the Geminie who could be trusted to aid us and Miss Turner in this extremely dangerous busn business.Of course we all should make it worth his while to do so."

"I suppose it would depend on what you wanted himto do"said George."Spying is a good service, though no one likes the work, but no one could be found I'm afraid who would like to do anything of shadowing spies which might risk them certain death as sure as sucide."

"That's natural enough George.But you see Jennie could perhaps more than make up for that risk."

"Well I don't know Miss Aronburg"the boy said after a pause."It isn't only the peril of shadowing such dangerous spies, but you see any man or child scout wouldn't like to risk such a task, and then fail in disgrace of havie something worse happen.You know them I know Miss Aronburg, But I'm telling you the truth I've known them a heap longer, when I was a prisoner in their hands, and I tell you those spies can't be shadowed or spied upon.Anyway I don't know what you reallly want, you see Mis Aronburg.????"

Gertrude looked at Heidi,and his e her eyes expressed the question,How far shall we go with this?she replied by taking the mattervin her own hands.

"We can trust you, can't we,whether you agreeee to help us or not?"

"Yes Ma,m"he said decidedly."You can trust me even though I am a foriegner. If you or the others tell w me what you want I will tell you straight whe ther whether I can suggest or do anything.If it is impossible the matter won't go beyond me."

"Very well then,I will tell you exactlywhat we want. Because we know Jennie cannot find the plans, we surely believe the plans is not there, and we believe that because so many made a complete search of the house and it was not found.It is right that it should be regained, or those spies frustrated, and that Emperor Vivians army too should be put on its guard, and which are almostput out because Violet, and her sisters, are still missing. We girlscout chief officers here are not exactly only very interested in the matter, but also very anxious, and worried, because should the spies really have it in their possession emperor ,,ivians army is in danger, and therefore We all have made up our minds to assist Miss Turner in finding the plans or frustrate General Pugnose as Federal has always been called from the start.Now what I want to know is do you think Jennie could be induced to send some one who is reliable to raid the headquarters of these spies and who ever it is if he is successful to give him a grand commission in the army, and twenty five thousand dollars besides.That would be a nice little sum you know to begin with when he gets home when the war is over."

Heidi saw at once by the expression of the boys face that she had secured him as a real helper.

"I think that might be managed, Ma,am if she will do it." he said in a tone that showed her he was endeavoring to hi de in his gladness."Yes if she wills it herself I think that could be managed.Now she's well acquainted with a boy by the name of Radcliffe, and he a gi-----" and he stopped at a warning look from Gertrude.

"Don't reveal his identy." she said."He'll raise thunders if you do."

However Heidi helped him."I may tell you George, that one of us hinted to Gertrude and Miss Richee too that we thought you and Miss Turner were pretty clever actors, as we know that likely one of these days you'll be one of us and that is principally why we spoke to you as we know you know the two spies alot.We thought you see, that Jennie might agree to my plan and that perhaps we might bring it about to a good success earlier than othwrise would have been done.In that case you see it wouldsuit us all.You and Jennie turner would moreover have the sits satisfaction of know ing that you were helping us to right a great wrong done to our country, and restore the reuptation of our great generals who have been so often hood winked by the enemy.What do you say?"

"Well Ma,am I think that as you say it would be doing the right thing and I don't deny that Jennie Turner and I have agreed to do our share as she knows me too, for as long as I was a prisoner in the hands of the enemy I have learned a lot.But what with your plans and this money you offer for the agent who is successful I think we might very well venture if she will agree to do it."and his radient face showed the happiness the prospect of serving

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these girlscouts caused him.

"Very well then. We may consider that as settled."Gertrude said."What we want is for you George to telegraph to Jennie that she is to do according to our plans if she thinks so it is safe, and that if she has an opportunity she is to mention to emprer Hanson Viviz Vivian that we will do all we pos sibly can even while on the raft to save his armies from being overcome by Mr Pugnose Federal.Of course that is a good plan..."

"But suppose Jennie shouldn't agree to the plan, Ma,am."and the young boys face fell suddenly at the thought, "What would be the situation then? "

"I shall try some other scheme of course."Gertrude said,"and it is only up to Jennie whether she would or not, for she knows best what to do.I should think however that Miss Turner will very likely be glad to be saved the trouble of sending any boy scouts to do such dangerous work.But if she doesn't agree I must try some other way to frustrate general Federal."

"What name am I to say the person is who should do the work?"

"Let me think.Radcliffe."

"But suppose she asks about the boy being sent knowing who Radcliffe is and his chare character.You surely don't want to sacrifice him by such a mission?"

"We will settle that afterwards, and I didn't suggest he was to go, but to do the sending. The first thing for you to do is to have Miss Turner telegraphed for, and you can suggest the whole plan as I tell it to you, to her and ask her if she is willing to do this."

"I think I can answer for that." ma,am"the boy said with a quiet smile.

"Very well.Still we had better have it settled.Willyou telephone to her now or would you rather telegraph it, and then by to morrow which is really tn the 8th we will finish the council and talk the matter over and settle about the other points.Of course you will tell her not to give any thing untill she has heard from me in person on the telegraph to morrow as to what she is to do."

"Very well Miss Gertrude.I Will start it at once if you'll give or get me her telephone number by wireless."

"We can easily arrange it"said Angeline Richee looking for the telephone number."Though she is an Abbieannian George you know Miss.Turner can speak good German and you use that long language.To morrow I will telegraph too and explain the nu matter and who I am sure will oblige me by writing to say that Radcliffe can do what we wish.Well I really congratulate you George. At first I thought the project a hopeless one, now I think we have every chance of success."Then she lifted the receiver.

Finally in in answer to what number please she said;

"Emperor Vivians headquarters Evangeline St Claire city.Telephone Number is Christi 10000."

"Christia 1,000 a all right sir."

Angeline Richee smiled."The operator thinks I'm a man."she s id.

"Finally came an answering call;

"Yes hello who is this?"

"This is miss Angelinia Richee.I wish to speak to Miss Jennie Turner please."

"Miss who?Jennie Turner Turner.?Who is that calling please again?"

"Miss Angelinia Richee.She knows me well."

"Are you sure.?Miss Angelinia Aronburg with you.Are you on a raft?"

"Yes."

"Good I'll call her."

In a few minutes Jennie came t to the phone and she was informed of the plans.

"My God don't you know came back the answer to the boy in German. It cannot be complied with.We have most terrible news and I was desiring to bring it through for confirmation before I could tell anything about it."

"Terrible news "said the boy astonished.What happened.Is Emperor Vivian whipped.?"

"No but there is worse details.Wait I'll get the paper and read you the list.Write down what I mention and set it before Gertrude."

He waited for a few moments and then came;

"Hello."

"Yes Miss Turner I'm still here."

"All right.

"Listen and take it down"came Jennie's exciting words. "For More than twenty one dreadful disasters have occured from last June till now,and many beautiful towns have beendevastated by con cussions of explosions, and fire and even murderous slaughter.Greatest of all these is at Calman, Headrick city, Mandril Mullencatt, Martinque state, in Northern Angelinia State and many other places where in that times hundreds upon hundreds of thousands have

been reported killed.I've heard over 1,746,518 are dread, over three hundred and eighty four thousand, six thirty three are injured, and the only known homeless are six hundred thousand and the property loss mounts into the hundreds of millions."

The boy knowing of the Abbiesnn horror could not doubt this though it seemed very much exaggerated, and he wrote it down.She con tinued I'll give you the list of the towns reported lost, they are /;

Calman, Calverinia,, Headrick city,
Disaster on Angelinia State coast,
Destruction of Mandrill,
Aldron ,in Calverinia,
Adisaster along southern Calverinia coast,
Min- Mine disaster destroying marsh ps at Apiania,
Horror at Mullencatt State, and destruction at Martinque city,
Northern Angelineia, Tremendous mine explosion,
Tonnanda, Calverinia,
Meldorn County, two disasters simultaneously,
Godfrey, Christian, and Calder Counts, in southern Calver inia,
Elsie County,
Henrietta, and Allenby Counties, onain southern Calverinia,
Disasters in Konnier, Copian, Landorn, Newail and All brood counties in southern Calverinia besides Shellen, sherpen and Good man counties, and to finish with Hendro, North and South Simper Counties, Maldof, Gentellion, Tensonia, Virgin, Kendro and Overland Counties all in southern Calverinia happening through June July and up to now the eith of August.The disasters are mostly tremendous explosions and floods, but what is more discouraging still George"are you writing it all down" yes, "well a great and most terrible forest fire has been discovered in the northwest section of the Mic- Hollester Forest Regions and is racing headlong for Calverina city, 1000 miles away, and one hundred and sixty five forest rangers have lost their lives trying to check its course.Oh its awful and we believe the enemy has done it all.The floods as investigations prove will join without big one still raging, Lake Sal Salicia is an ocean now,and Angelinia Agathia faces destruction and is isolated from the whole world."

.Geroege wrote it all down and then wondered if it could be true and though he was doubting it, he asked her to hold the wire, and then presented it to Gertrude, who wrote it over.She could not hardly believe her eye sight when she looked this over, but as she had been an eye wi ness of this Abbiesnn horror and had survived the whole catastrophe and who could give a whole account of it which leaves no doubt the acax exact truth could not believe it justified to doubt all this, especially from Jennie.The boy George looked looked scared, and so did Gertrude.She herself went to the phone, told Jennie that she would call up again, when she had recovered her composure, and then ringing off went back to her post, and said "Jennie says because of these disasters the plan cannot be carried through, but that she will try it, if she is positively sure the pears are really go e.She believes t she must be able to find some place.So we will have to drop the matter and leave it all in her hands. Hettie Kornmann somewhat excited too by the n we said;

"I was at the city of La Polama, or at least I lived there, and was on furlough at the time this big flood we are riding on now occured."

"Tell us about it, it'll help us verify our suspicions."said Gertrude.

"On that awful midnight of June wiret, the whole evening till then I had stayed up to write letters to my friends, I was seated in my p apart ment just finishing a letter.My mother had come to me before then asking me if I was not going to bed, and I had answ ered "Yes, mother I will in two minutes, when to my surprise I heard a loud noise far away like thunder rolling and simultaneously a chair immy room leaped clear to the ceiling and fell, while the papers and the table itself jumped up and down to a shorter distance, and I went sliding chair and all to the other side of the room.Just a manefestation rather surprised me, as I could not even feel a breath of air stirring.It however was all over, that having lasted only a few seconds, and then while I and my mother were wondering what this could be ow owing to, hoping it was no ghostly manesfestation, and yet without the least apprehension as of the real cause, we were startled by another sound as of hollow distant thunder, and the window glass glass went out, the table and chairs did the same stunt more vehemently and also at the same time the house shook frightfully from the very foundation and ceiling plaster fell upon us.

Upon this my mother gave a scream, I threw down my pe pen and started upon my feet, re remaining a moment in suspense, pondering whether I should stay in the house or run into the street, as the danger in both places seemed as great, for with the shock I had heard the noise of falling buildings, the screams of many people in their death agony, and the flare of strange lights coming and going out. However again all was quiet and I went to look out the window for every one were crying "The earthquake.The earthquake."

"Mama I said"It's an earthquake."

"No it ain't "she screamed to me."It's the gosh darn enemy with his explosions.The shocks are too sudden."

"I was going to say something in answer, when there came a sound as "Boom, Boom,Boom.I f seemed as if I rose from my feetto reach the ceiling with my head, my table leaped frogged and turned upside down with a loud crash, and in a moment I was stunned with a most horrid deafening or earsplitting crash as if the whole city had sunk to the ground in one heap at once.A cloud of dust came into my roo , the window curtains flapped, and the building shook with such crazy violence for that few seconds that the crash up above told me that the upper stories had immediately fell, and though my apartment which was on the second floor, did not then share the same fate,yet everything in those three more seconds or instants was thrown out of its place in such a manner that I had to go bobbing up and down as if I was a jumpin g jack,, two chairs seemed to play"horse", and I expected nothin g less than than to be soon crushed to dea th, as there were some more distant booming sounds, and the walls continued to rock to and fro, opening in many places large pieces of stone and brick falling down from every side from the cracks and the ends of most of the rafters or beams starting from the roofs. To add to this terrifying scene, the sky in a moment became so red despite the midnight darkness that I believed a volcano was doing this, and outside dust rose from the ruins so thickly that I could not see anything outside for even ten feet.

The shocks then stopped but it was a long time before the dust would disperse. My mother was sitting on the floor, all covered with dust, pale and trembling, and so was I, and my hair was white with it and my clothes too.I asked her if she was scared, but her consternation was so great that for a moment or so she could not say a word.At first I had also beldved that the world was at an end, and I feeling as if I was going to chock with all the dust in my throat looked for some water.

My eyes burned from the mortar dust.I went into a washroom where I kept a large jar of water but found it broken to pieces.My mother having now recovered herself told me I must not now think of quinching my thirst but of saving our lives, as the house was just falling on our heads, and if a second or third shock came, would certainly bury us both.

My mother hurried downstairs, I following close behind, and made directly to that end of the beautiful orenge beautiful street which opens to the great Norma Rum. I was horrie horrified, and so was my mother.This was quite or had been quite a wide street, but now it was blocked entirely up with s so many fallen houses to the height of at least their first or second stories.

"We were then fored to turn back to the other end which led to the main street, and there my mother helped me cautiously over a vast heap of ruins with no small hazard to our own lives, for just as we were go n going into this street, as there wasone part that I could not well climb over without the assistance of my hands as well as my feet I desired her to lod let go her hold which she did, remaining a few feet behind me, at which instant there fell a mass of stones as thick as a cloud from a tottering wall, which if we had been a little later would have crushed us both under its debris.The whole wall then gv gave, and she had escaped just in time.

We were in dread of sharing the same fate as the others especially of the many instances of the horrors that showed all around, and so we hurried along.We had now come to a long narrow street, which we had to pass through.The houses on each side had been four to five stories high all very old, but the greater part had already been thrown down, and were continually falling here and there, and threatening any one who passed through with death at every step, and therefore we hesitated to take the chances. Both my mother and I were shocked for great numbers lay beforeour very sight killed or hurt, or what we even thought more deplorable, so b u bruised and wounded and disfigured that no one could stir to help themselves.

As self preservation ,however is the first law of nature to any one these horrid thoughts did not so far prevail as to make me totally despair.I and my mother proceeded on as fast as it was possible for us to do so yet with utmost care and caution, having at length got clear of this

S/C.

street we found ourselves safe and unhurt in a large open space before what we once remembered as St Vincents Cathedral, which had been partly thrown down a few minutes minutes before.No one however may have been in there at this hour of night, and close by were mostly buildings not much injured, but with the windows all out.Here we stood for some hours, considering what we should do, and finally not n thinking ourselves safe in this situation we came to the resolution of climbi climbing over the ruins of the west end of the big church, in order to get to the rivers side,that we might be removed as far as possible from the tottering houses in case of other concussion s and booming sounds coming on.

We succeeded in doing so but with the greatest difficulty and finally entere entering a large open space found a enormous concourse of people rich and poor,and of all rank and conditions in confusion, bedlam, and horror. There were many priests and nuns and brothers among them, ladies, and children only half dressed, and many without shoes, some men half naked,, and many with bloody scratches and wounds on them, all these whom their mutual dangers had here assembled as to a place of safty, were on their knees at prayer, and with the terror of death in their faces.

In the midst of these devotions another conquession was felt, and a boom heard much further away,and completes completed the ruin of those many buildings which had been already much shattered, and clouds of dust again formed.The consternation now became so wide spread, that the shrieks and cries of the frightened people could be distinctly heard by me and my o mother from the furthest distance, at points too where vast numbers of the survivors had likewise retreated to shelter.At the same time we could hear the fall of som big building a mile away.

Then we remained stillwhere we were, but all the rest of the night we felt no more shocks or heard no more thunders, and we believed all was over.winally day light returned, and as soon as the sun started to rise through a strange red mist, or fog, we heard a general cry"A flood is coming .We are lost." Turning our eyes tward the Norma Run River which at this place was nearly six miles broad, we could hear it p roaring and observed it swelling and heaving against its natural cours e in a most unaccountable manner.In an instant the far land as far as eye could see was being coveri covered with water roaring and foaming and in an instant there appeared at some very sm small distance a large long body of water rising as it were like a long moving green wall.It came on then tumbled and turned into foam only to reise r erise and then swell and form into numberous washes and waves and came tward the city with such fury and speed that we all immediately ran for our very lives as fast as pobbi possible to the highest parts of the city many were actually swept away, and the rest were above their waist in water at a good distance from the lowest part of the city.For my own part I had the narrowest escape, and should certainly have pe perished, had I not climbed a high l firescape on a building partly standing high till I and mother worked ourselves to a safer spot.As there now appeared as much danger from the flood as from the land shocks and we scarce knew where to go for safty, I myself suggested to mother to return to the area of St Vincents.

We did so, our clothes all dripping, and here we stood for some time observing the river ships tumbling and tossing about as in a most violent storm, and to our apprehension the water kept rising foot by foot.Many river ships had broken their cables, and were carried away by the flood others were whirled around with in credible swiftness, many were turned keel upwards by the violence of the flood, and the ruins were being awash, and all wooden houses that withstood the shocks were floating away.

It looked at about noon of that terrible day as if the lower portion s of the city would be entirely swallowed up by the flood wity with all the surviving people amidst the ruins.At the time too during the increase of the flood a great number of boats and small river vessels were swept away in whirlpols of water and never more appeared.

This dreadful incident I and my mother witnessed with out very eyes, and My mother also had the account given from several masters of ships that escaped the full force of the torrent who had been anchored within two or three hundreds yards of an immense quay of the city which had also been entirely swept away with all the people on it whohad fled there for safty, and these captians had seen the whole disaster.One of them in particular with the help of some glaring light told me that when the third roaring sound and shock came he could perceive the whole city as far as moon and darkness would allow to be seen fall into clouds of dust,, that the instant agitation of the earth was so great even under the river, that he threw his boat almost ashore that immediately the river was shaken till its water swamped the shore. The flood came at about six oclock in the morning and everything had been swept away..I had not been long in the area of St Vincents and the water

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had risen so that even there I and my mother remained partly walking on water though we had gotten upon a small emine eminence at some distance from the direction of the water with the ruins of several intervein houses to break its force.

At this time I and my mother took notice the waters rose and rushed past so swiftly that some vessels were left quite dry upon some of the ruins,and it was justly dreaded that our fair city would now meet the same fate as those towns that were swept by the torrent from Lake Solicia..I and my own dear mother were now in such a situation that we did not hardly care which way we would turn.I being young was faint from the on constant fatigue I had under gone, and I nor my mother had not yet broken our fast and were very hungry.

We determined to go and find some means to leave the city before the flood would engulf us entirely.We proceeded with some hazard to a large space before what was one a large Catholic School but which had been now thrown down still it was now only a three story affair, from a seven, and which had it happened during the day might have buried a great number of little children. Passing through the open square of the school yard, I was surprised to find it full of wagons, coaches, chariots, chaises, a horses and mules and drays deserted evidently by their drivers and attendants, the poor animals seeming to be left to starve.From this immense square the way led to what we hoped to find as St Anns street though we had to go through a long and narrow street to reach it.Here we met new scenes of horror in spite of the waters which had not reached here and this exceeded all description we could ever tell or write, and nothing anywhere could be heard, but pleads, screams of agonise agonies, sighs and groans.There were crowds too of refugees trying to liberate their injured friends from the rubbish and I nor my mother heard nothing bu ubut the wailing from many person s of the loss of nearest relatives, dearest friends or of property.And my mother nor myself could hardly take a single step anywhere without the unaviodable possibility of treading on dead, wounded or dying.We came to a long narrow street where hre and there lay wagons,and coaches, or street cars caught between piles of wreckage, and of wagons, and drays, and carriages with their masters, horses, and riders almost crushed in pieces. At the end of the street we found mothers with very infants in their arms, even ladies and children richly dressed, including priests, friars,, gentlemen, mechanics, in the same condition, and many expiring; I counted nearly three hundred who had their le legs, or backs broken, sixwith great stones on their breasts, and many who lay almost buried in the rubbish, and all were crying out in vain to the rescers for succor, and who were failing to liberate them work as they might.

At length we arived at another street where all buildings were thrown down of brick, but those of wooden still remaining.In loss than half an hour we reached a large public house, which h had survived the disaster, where we found s great number of refugees in the same wretched circumstances as ourselves.We could not leave the city we found es except by boat and the only way we could save ourselves was to go to the hi h e highest point where the largest majority of the city was not yet touched by the waters and there we remained with many refugees all day long."

"It was a bad experience "said Gertrude."What happened then d rin g the night.Did son one come to your aid.?"

"No,and perhaps you m u may have thought that this present doleful suvject will be concluded here, but the horrors of the many days and weeks we remained there f facing starvation, and exposure are sufficient to fill a volume, and especially the suffering of the thousands of marooned threatened more and more by both fire and flood at the same time.After the coming of dark after our first day of experience another shocking and terrible scene scared us.The whole city not touched by flood was apparently in a fierce blaze, and though we were so far away from one of the fires, the glare in the sky was so bright we could easily see to read by it.My mother feared it was on fire in a thousand different places at once, and it continued to burn for days and nights together without intermission or without the least attempt to made to stop its progress, while the flood raged on and on but never rising enough to reach the fires.It seemed as if it would cu consume everything the shocks and flood was sparing, and the foolish people who could do so were so dejected and frightened that few or none had courage enough to venture down to save any of their property.I believe the fire had three causes which all occuring at the same time could and will naturally account for the great havoc it made.

.It was chilly that night, and stoves had been left with banked fires these setting fire to the fallen wreckage of the houses and timber work that fe l with the explosion shocks, the conflagrations soon spread to all

the neighboring houses and th being there joined with the fires of the fallen electric fires increased to such a degree, that it could have destroyed the whole city, especially as it met with no interruption, if it was not for the waters.

But girls what would appear almost incredible to you were the facts less notorious and public is that a gang of hardened rascals, all Glandelinian prisoners who had escaped from the prisons when the walls fell were busily employed to setting fire to all those buildings which stood some chance of escaping the general horror. Who could conceive what indun induced them to the hellish work of vandalism, except to add to the horror and confusion, and for the hatred they have for Calverinia, and therefore that they might by this means have the better opportunity of also plundering with security. But as far as I or my mother observed there was surely no necessity for this trouble, for they could have easily done their wicked business without it, since the whole ruined part of the city was so deserted by night because of the raging flood that I believe not a soul remained in it, except these execrable Glandelinian ghouls. It was possible too girls that som of them might have had other motives besides robbing the dead, as one in particular being op captured---they say he was an Omarian Gürde condon condemnd to death---confessed at the gallows that he had once tried to set fire to Emperor Viviens palace at Angelinia Agathia with his own hand--at the same time glorifying in the action, and declaring with his last breath that he had hoped to have burned all the royal family."

"How many perished in that city do you think!" asked Angelinia Aronburg.

"The loss of life is not known, but we believed that the whole number of persons that perished including those who were burned to death afterwards, drow drowned in the flood or murdered by the vandals is supposed on the lowest calculation to ammount to more than sen seventy five thousand, and though the damage in other respects cannot be estimated, yethou may form some idea of it when I assure you that this extensive and beautiful city was nothin g but a vast heap of ruins in manyplaces, that the rich and poor were upon the same level, all rich families which but the day before had been in easy circumstances being then marooned by the flood amidst the highest wreckage or on surviving house tops and finding none able to relieve them, while it is said that over twenty eight thousand, two hundred and ninty seven surviving houses had been carried away, and the ruins washed level with the ground.. In order that you may realize the awful prodegious havoc that has been made, I will mention one more instance Gertrude among the many that had come under my notice. There was on St Peters Street a high arched passa geway, fronting a great railway station on the left hand was a high factry, and on the right some private houses seven stories high. The whole area surrounded by all these buildings did not much exceed one of our large coats in Angelinia Agathia. At the first shock, numbers of people who had, had time to flee from their houses when awakened in their terror, were then fleeing in panic under the arch, and were seeing seeking the middle of this area for shelter. At this instant, the other shocks came and the arched entrance to the station gave way, with the fronts of the station the big factory and the contiguous buildings, all inclinging one twurd the other with sudden violence of the shock fell down and burdd every soul as they were standing there crowded together."

"It is getting awful" said Jane Melfort. What are we going to do. Mildred sometimes I cannot help starting to agree with you that we are on the losing side, even if in the final end we might win. But if we do that good luck is terribly far off, and we will see a most terrible war before it'll ever reach the crissi crisis. This fever of war is mounting higher and higher, and with the frightful loss of life stated at the battle near Mic-Whirther Jane , and of Margert Ford, and Turmers Hill which we too have heard of it already a proof. Let's take our map and examine it throughoutly with these lists of all the disasters and see from the beginning of November last year untill now the 10th of August how far they extend."

She called to Penrod to bring the map from the draw r but he found it was not there, and one of the boys said it was left in Gertrudes headquarters. George was sent to fetch it which he did in a few minutes. It was then spread out on the table and there was room enough for all who attended this long council to observe. It took quite some time before they could trace and those who could first ed markedout with pencil the portions devastated as carefully as possi possible and the names of the towns before they could take the proposed measure.

"Gertrude then said; "Let me make my effort; let's seeHelendale October 1912 res to here, and to Abbiesnn there, see girls, ain't it terrible, why---"

"It takes the whole map almost" said Heidi. "The portion of the countrys surface convulsed by explosion shocks, devastated by floods, and fires, could be over four or fives times greater than the whole extent of the distant land of Eup u europe and parts of America or a distance of nearly twenty thousand miles. As we see the shocks too were felt from other blasts and floods not only over the southern Calverinia State but in Angelinia Angeline Vino, and Hin Hickencile and were all nearly as violent. What covers the map here is the horrors of Lake Selicia with the destruction of Schlocdor Sperryville and many others, which now again are inundated by the Abbiesnn horror. Why the list of these disasters in numbers up to now is almost an unbroken one. since Nineteen Twelve till now the total number of disasters one after another are twenty s seven big one, and tens of thousands of smaller. And look here, is where the forest fire horror started July the 12th last year, and which is still raging, and interfering with our own efforts to get to Emperor viviens lines. This fire started at a place about twenty four miles northwest of Jessica, and where ancentie villiage of eighteen thousand in habitants had been engulfed giving the people only time enough to flee without saving their smalle st articles. And lok here, these disasters were felt in flood and explosion shocks as far to the westward as Angelinia Junction, which is also now being devastated, and the States of Martinique and Colter are wiped out in their property where the river Throne which usually rises about two feet at flood time had been risen twenty feet because of the floods pouring into it from the north the water being at the same time black as ink.

Tward the Northwest the shocks of Abbiesnn was perceptible as far as northern Abbiesnnia whre the great lakes and even the sea itself was disturbed. "Then she pointed and continued" Here in June too of this year 1913 Northern Angelinia State began to be swept by raging forest fires and terrific floods combined which was joined later byour Abbiesnn horror to an ermormous extent, and where thirty towns were then covered or inundated now there are hundreds. This northern Angelinia fire joined the southeastern Calverinia "Red Plague, and that is why now we almost fancy we are lost souls in Hell.

Angelinia Agathia, Dorothy Gale, and Jessica and many other laces have never been released from the floods since the first in 1912. Tward the west "still tracing on the map it has extended to near Vivian Wickey, to Zanniegusto polius and to the very State of Bengall. Tward the northwest into Dondobia the shock was sensibly felt throughout the country of northern Triponighlia and Concentinia and along the shores of everyone ofow western coasts. I was told that even at sea that horrible night of the Abbiesnn terror to the southwest of the sea port of Calverine city, a Calverinian warship was suddenly strained as iif she had struck on a rock, the seams of the decks opened, and even the compass was upset. On board another ship one hundred and ten miles to the westward f of Cape St johns near one of the Belgiglomeneon or Boyking islands the shockvor concussion was so violent as to cause men on deck as act as if they were popcorn on a hot stove .

As I can trace here girls the great flood of Abbiesnn surged across the whole central and southern portions of Calverinia, and at the vinicity of Angelinia Agathi s it is said to have risen sixty feet or more. At Dorothy Gale the flood during the full year had rose and fell fifteen times. At Jessica where the usual flow of the rivers is seven feet above normal in flood times the great flood rolled in over the rivers as if they did not exist and where the rivers had their course there is still a sea of water fee fifteen feet on the level depth above the highest known mark of the rivers wne when they are swollen. This immense tide of floods rushing into this city of Jessica pointing caused great damage as we heard, and many other towns throughout the region were as badly flooded. The tide of the very sea near here was also usuddenly raised by the flood rushing into the bay, the shock was sensibly felt there at Jessica. All these facts as we can see by this map tends to show that all these shocks and the horrors of Lake Selicia, Northern Angelinia, and Abbiesnn must all have had their origin through the efforts of the enemy and that the four mainly mentioned were of a very violent kind. These disasters have followed one after another for months in greater fury. The Abbiesnn disaster we know however is the most disasterious of all because its force was spent on the most commercian commercial and populous capital city of Abbiesnnia, known as Abbiesnn, wher e world commerce and travel made the facts conspicious at once, with the destruction of 10?000 railroad lines. Arits artists will paint, and auth authors will write of its horrors for all time. The sweeping away of such

an ormormous city wic will be considered one of the most dramatic and terr ible war horrors in the whole history of all disasters.Yet we feel sure girls that som day Abbieann will rise again and be once more a rich and most magnificent city interesting to travelers for its and history of the past, romance and beauty and holiness,and where we know in due time the New Abbieann can boast of Abbieannia's vengeance for her destruction.

As far as we can trace on this map the list of cities known destroyed, or sadly broken up are these, Helendale,, Henrietta, Spoonyville, Schlueder Town,Irenetown,, Angelinia Agathia, Dorothy Gale, Jessica city, Big Girl-Knool, Little Girlknool, Abbieann, Poverty Row which also was wiped out with Abbieann, Vignon, wiped out, La Poloma also, El Verso, El Paso,, San Antonio, Mandro, Bangaller City, Delight's Junction; Calman, Meadwick, city, Mandrill, Andron, all the towns of Mullencatt State,Martinque city Ton Onda, and many others. Why Mildred says that it seems our cause is hopeless is this which she often mentions, over eleven thousand miles of land has been or is under water; 10,000 cities and towns are a thing of the past; 10,000,000 are homeless and facing dire poverty, starvation and exposure; the loss in property is nearly a hundred billion dollars, and still it rages on ..

It is awful indeed."

"Since the disasters began what is the total loss of life up to now."

"I do not know"said Gertrude horself; but"but it was stated as high as6,?209,0 16. The total number of homeless even now is up to the awful figure of 12,284,633."

For a short time they were all quiet.George who was now at Home among them all had written down the date, which was the 8th of August 1913.He had found all his comrades on board the raft a cheery and pleasant set of girls and boys, ready to assist him as far as they could, and therefore he was willing to assist them as far as he could.Just to test him recently a few practical practical jok es had been played upon him but George had taken them with such perfect good temper that they were soon abandon ed.He had se secretly before this applied himself very earnestly to mate mastering mastering the mystery of the girl and boy scout drii, and it had not been long before he had become secretly to them efficient, and he had only to wait till the news would come of the t return of the Vivian Girls so he could get the pears that would cause his ap cintment to some company.He however had had the good luck to have an excellehy aid assigned to him Nevertheless even though he was not yet a scout.Frank Benedict was a couple tly handy boy scout and could turn his hand for anything, and was always good tempered and cheery.

"This boy is rather freee and easy in his ways."Jean Saunders tol had told George when she brought the boy to him,"But you will get accustomed to that.He was a aide-de-camp to one of the Vivian Girls, and his forced parting from his service to her almost broke Benedicts heart, but I no doubt believe he will soon be as much attatched to you in time.All of us are good but we all have our imperfections; and he will want a little humouring but take them as a whole I would rather have an exprienced boyscout take care of me than any one who is not trained."

And George had n ever regretted the choice of this boy guardian Gertrude had made for him, and found Benedict an excellent servant, and his strange eccentricities and the opinions with which he always expressed afforded the German Boy a constant source of amusement.

Despite that Gertrude and Angelina Ridh Riches were the supreme girlscout leaders George had been made as head of the council because of his knowledge and his experiences. As soon as they were through and they waited for the next call from Jennie which they expected any minute, Gertrude told one of the boy servants;

"Order the sails up, as the raft is going to be on the way again.We are going to travel by night this time as to land ashore would be more dangerous. Guards must watch careful to night so we won't be rammed.This is an out of the way hole as we put it, and according to these disasters it seems that there are lots of Glandelinians at such dirty work.The Whole nation will apply for military aid soon and laboring aid too.A nice job we have got before us.Totravel by a flood made at the hands of the foe.I have had my turn at it before and know what it means.I'd rather tramp ten or fifteen miles overhills and through bogs than do this.We start the first thing to night so you had better see that the sails are up.We must travel nineteen miles to night ifpossible, and its a pretty bad watery road to travel."

The boy went to do her bidding and George said;

"I think it is a c nice nice change, and we shall be very glad to have done with all this smoky atmosphere.Evangeline St Claire is n ear the river by its own name is it not?"

"No it is about ten miles away, I believe.The river gets the name from the city..We are still more than fifty miles away from there."

The council was over, now and the raft started on again.Many strong boys were placed on night .watch between hours of turns; and men who had been one asleep all day were requested to remain on sentry duty all night to watch for any dangerous floes which the raft may collide with. Gnore George indeed enjo ed the novelty of the continued trip, and was not sorry when they had again left the belt of smoke.Those whoslept on the raft that night were quartered in their tents, and the officers took their sleeping quarters in the big mess tent.Except when engaged on in calls from different sentrys the boy accds of the night crew found not much to do Now,but exciting scenes flowed past very rapidly..The raft was now on the flat for about a mile or so off shore, and George finding nothing else t to do; and as it was two hours yet before retiring, and any way being not in service he could retire or get up when he choose, the boy walked to the edge of the raft facing landside, and there watched with the help of the light of fires, and the moon trying to shine through the smoke the many strange objects in the water,and also the strange birds flying here and there over the water and occassionally dashing down to its serf sotticesurface..A few floating houses could be seen closeto the raft but with no one on the roofs;and it was seldom now that even a distant wreckage jam was visible anywhere for they were now in or on a part of the flood where it was more immense an d deeper, and by its appearance on shore George fancied it must have risen a little again.The shore which he passed now rose sheer up from the water at places but occassionally they fell away and a good climber could make his way over the rough rocks and boulders down to the waters edge if he choose.As however there was nothing to do or nothing to be gained by it, no one s if there were any on shore ever made the attempt.

Looking back over the waters, the view was a very dre ary one indeed.There was not a single thing in sight but water, water; even the highest trees in the lowlands were either gone or covered over their tops with water which was evidently for one instance when the raft ran smack into the top of a submerged tree and its speed from the wind in the sails tore the top off and shen absolutely uprooted it so that it floated down with the current.It was rarely now that a single floating objec objest of any large size could be seen as near as dar ness would permit..Once or twice that late evening one of the boy sentires came up to the edge of the raft and would salute the boy, and one of the men soldiers off duty for the evening stopped to have a talk with George.

"There was"he said "a good deal of suspicion going on concerning this water since it has occured; but there is so much of it now that no one knows where it come from.No river did it; nor any ammount of them; neither did a lake.However it seems it does not pay just how to try and pry into the enemy affairs,as it did when the war was young; and there was lots of informat ion to be hand hand save that which was taken away by Violet; and her sisters. They were missing or are now missing because the enemy heard of their intentions of having the Abbieann horror investigated.Now the trade of spying is open again to a good extent; there however is only the duty to save; and I fancy a good many of the spies will take a dreadful risk or go out of the business for failure.You see since the Vivian Girls are missing,; and these awful disaster s have occured, and rumors came that the enemy o is on the road of success which no one believes the revenue spies have got all their Gemini Agents in every Glandelinian towns in glandelinia secretly to find details and get news from them what Glandelinia's purpose is to be next in the progress of this conflict;and from what part of the countries their new armies come from.Along the Angelinia Conat there has been a good deal of severe fighting so I hear and world shaking artillery dueling.Anna Arenburg city was shelled and repulsed us.There blockading pays well .This war my boy is getting very bad.It's too bad you and your parents were in this country at this terrible time."

"I suppose there is a good deal of that going on."

"Any ammount of it my boy.For every town that is captured I remeber or reckon there must be a hundred thousand or more at work that no one dreams of for making these catastrophes; and will be as long as investigations cannot prove anything, and there hiding places among hills and bogs all over the country and other safe hiding spots where no one not in the horrible se secret o would dream of searching. The Glandelinians know how to carry their work through.If it were not for that we should know lots. But my boy I warn you I would stay too long so close to the edge of the raft at this hour of night for any pay Emperor Vivian can give me, for I know not what might be lurking on shore or above on the cliffs there and my body might be found laying on the floor dead with some horrible wounds.We even would be passing a foe machine gun nest and would not see it."

"W ll I'm sure I would be afraid to try to find out anything about the Glandelinians."said George."As long as as it is a war of this kind, it would be as much an aff ir of us as well as any other my."

George however believed the man was right, for although he had not been able to see any one from shore at such a distance he had sometimes had a sort of uncomfortable feeling that he and even the motions of the whole raft was being watched from the shore.Once or twice when he looked shor ward with his glasses he had caught a glimpse of what he thought was a mans head among some distant rocks, but on looking with his night telescope he had saw no one.Another time looking suddenly where the shore was visible good because of the glare against the sky of distant fires he saw what he thought was the shape of some man standing at the edge of some bushy ground where the land dipped suddenly away from a huge close pine forest, but directly he saw that he was observed he took to his heels,and speedily disappeared in the forest.

At first George did not trouble himself about these matters, nor did he see any reasons why any n anyone not the enemy should interest himself in the movements of the raft.Had he wandered about or along the edge of the raft he might be taken for a spy by those onshore trying to find out some hidden position and he might cause the raft to be under fire; but sitting here at the edge of the raft near the railing watching the passage of strange objects on the water surely no absurd suspicion could fall upon him unless those on shore were Glandelinians.Finally one of the man sergeants of the guard came along.He was a powerful looking man and carried a brace of pistols.George was lying on his back looking up at the smoke clouds crossing the moon and did not hear the man approach till he was close to him, and then with a quick movement sprang to his feet.

"I did not hear you coming sir." the boy said."Thinking of glandelinians, you have given me quite a start."

"It's a unhandy place lad, for sleeping so close to the edge."the man said civily.

"I was not asleep sir." George said"Though I own I was just starting to doze up when you approached."

"Are you my lad expecting to meet a friend of yours here?"The sergeant asked."surely it's a mighty lonesome and risky place?"

"No sir, I am not expecting any one.I have only come here for a look at the passing of the floating stuff on the water.I'm never tired of looking at that."

"It's a big lot of water for a flood. surely." the man replied, looking over the sea like expanse with regret and remourde as if the sight were a great pain to him."A powerful lot of water for a big flood.Reminds me of riding in a ship i on the Ocean.and I have heard them say that you often come out here with jean or others." ?

"Yes I often do so." George assented.

"Don't you think now its dangerous so near the edge of the raft facing yondar shore my lad.Don't you think something might be watching us on shore and we could be under fire any moment; and something might even happen to you or you would be struck by some thing that may hurl you into the water and your body go drifting away and not a soul know what has become of you. As we are heading for Evangeline St Claire, don't you know the shore may be hostile every foot of the way for Mani ; Manleys army is stretched an armor mous distance."?

"But I don't mean to take a false step or expose myself." George said.

"Sure, there is many persons takes a false step into some danger when he even does not think of it, and a shot from shore would be a thing you might be a target for."

"Yes, but there is hardly no one ashore." George sa d.

"Maybe, nd maybe not."the sergeant replied."But you could see for your self, you are the only one here, and if I was a free lad like you, and could spend my t time as I liked that I was would be sitting or standing here on the edge of the raft facing shore where you might come to harm any minute.Gertrude sent me to warn you.See I just saw an object move near the edge of the shore by the water."

"I have no fear of coming to harm."George answered,"And I should be sorry for any one who tried.I always am allowd to carry a pistol.Not that I think there is any need of using it, but it is always as well to be prepared."

"It is, always as well, but a pistol would reach shore a mile and a half and I don't think you should be coming out here, I wouldn't if I were you. I'm not afraid to die, but I'm in no hurry about it either."

"Why,not my good fellow?I harm no one, and interfere with no one on shore. urely it is open to me to come here and look at the flood without

from the dark Glandelinians taking offense at it."

"That is as it may be my boy, but the Glandelinians don't look at it that way. Anyhow I have told you what I think of it.Good night to you."

"I wonder what the sergeant meant.George said to himself, looking after him as he moved away.."He meant something I sure feel certain, though what it is I can't imagine.But I couldn't think or believe glandelinians would be on that portion of the shore, unless the enemy is ever following our raft.I thought it was well to let him know I always have a pistol handy, though he said pistols don't hit that far, but I know mine does as it is a strange kind.Ha I suppose after this I had better not come here so often especially at night though I s have not the remotest idea in the world why glandelinians should be on that shore as anywhere elsehowever the shore does not look as it should be, I've seen figures there looking this way and disappearing and I should have precious little chance if two or three batteries should be trained at this ev very spot."

"Your guards are sure queer people Miss Aronburg"George said as he interviewed her on the subject."

"What's the matter now George?Are they playing jokes on you again?"

"No.One can't even go and look at the flood waters from the shore side of the raft view without their taking it amiss-"and George related the conversation he had with the sergeant, adding that he was convinced he had believe he had been watched by some one or others on shore.

"It is curious certainly."Gertrude said when he had finished."No doubt we are entering what we might say is enemy territory for sure. The man on shore may be glandelinians, and wonder what our raft is, whether it is merely floating wreckage or what, and no doubt our sails have hoodwinked them.They might think there is something amiss with our raft, and that we may be persons scouting down the flood, and aft are after something they are afraid of our finding out.Either there is something going on ashore, or some i something is wrong.I'm glad to mentioned it.And besides I don't think I'd neglect the warning George.If you exposed yourself and the enemy might fire on us from shore you might be killed.I should certainly advise you to give up mooning about on that edge of the raft.even you might bring us under fire."

"But there is nothing to do on this wretched raft, and it's only six oclock, and too early for any of us to retire"said George discontentedly.

"Not if you stop looking at the flood, I grant, but you might do as I and Angeline Richee do, when we are off duty, go about the mess hall or do something that can make you forget these sad scenes .We all do or we would go crazy, for m n many of the girls and boys on board have parents they worry about because they are in the surrounded cities and towns.If we want to there is plenty of fund to be had and I do not intend to sound taps to night untill eleven because of the fact we all must wait till we get the call from Miss Murjer Turner."

"That's all very well for you Miss Gertrude.You are the captian here and have no one to worry over, and with lots to say for yourself, but its a different thing for me altogether.I'm a foriegner, a stranger, and I can't drop in and make myself at home as you and the others do."

"Why you are not shy of us I hope."said Gertrude in affected horror. "Surely such an unusual gr disgrace has not fallen on our regiment that any one we have rescued from a watery grave is shy of us girls.Such a thing is not recorded with us."

"I am afraid you will have to make a record of it now." laughed George. "For I own that I am almost shy, if you call it shyness, feeling awkward and uncomfortable with a lot of strange boyscouts, especially so many good pretty and b rave girls who deserve heaven than such a life you have to live through."

"Do not let it be known among our followers."Gertrude said"Or your reputation will be such that all our girls will be teasing the life out of you good as they are.Angeline this is a sad business.What are we going to do with this boy?You and I will have to consult together how this boy is to be cured."

"No, no, Gertrude"George said earnestly, knowing how fond Gertrude was of practical jokes, and dreadeding that she and Miss Richee would be putting him into some ridiculous position or other just to test him."You will never cure me I am afraid if you set about it.I shall I hope get over it in time, I'm not shy of girls in general, never was, but yourkind are so peculiar, there's something of Celestialness and Saintliness among all of you,and its the sort of thing that comes or becomes ten times worse if you attempt to cure it."

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"We will think it over good my lad."Gertrude said seriously."This is to us a serious defect in your character, and as you are here with us I consider it my entire duty for your welfare espcially if you want to be a scout, and both for your sake and that of our force to take it into serious consideration,and see what is to be done. And my lad I'm telling you you may never have such a chance again of being cured of shyness as you have here, and we do not let any one enter the Regiment who is shy of us girls, because we try to live like St Trans, or others.Angeline, you must turn this matter seriously over in your mind,and I will do the same.And now it is time for us to be starting for our general Supper.I' sory you can't go with us Jean, as you are on duty. "

"I shall be very glad to take your duty, Jean"George said eagerly."I told you this morning, and I thought you agreed."

"As commanding officer, and "beautiful Saint"Gertrude Angeline"Gertrude said gravely, though fighting hard to keep back her laughter"I cannot permit the chan change to be made, George because you are not one of us yet.You however have your duty to perform anyhow to the Regiment as well as Miss Jean Saunders,cand your duty is clearly to go out and have a good time before ta taps is sounded.I am surprised after what I have just been saying that you should think of exchanging places with Jean.We don't do that sort of thing.Guards never exchange pl c places."

"Well of course if you want me to go I will"George said reluctantly. "But I don't know what you intend for me to do, and I don't kno c know all your beautiful girls friends."

"You will soon enough if you go into their society.All our girlscouts are nice girls, good and brave, friendly and kind.And if would be nothing sort or short of cruel if we the representive of Princess Jennie vivians army of girlscouts, did not do something to entertain strange friends, especially as we have saved your life when that derelict ship ran your little boat down, as it crashed our raft.So as supper bell is to be rung let's be off. Lets come"And she turned to a boy and said;

"Ring the supper bell."

"Ring the supper bell!Why Miss Gertrudes I can't.It's past time, but the bells gone."

"This news astonished Gertrude but she said "I'll investigate that soon. "Use the bugle."

The boy did.

"With a digh George rose to carry out his orders,and he would not have been so reluctant to go if he had known what he was going to do..

"He is quite unusual that boyscout friend."Angeline Richee said as the tent door closed behind George."That adventure he went through for nearly two years in the Glandelinian encampmeas showed he had plenty of pluck and presence of mind, but he is as shy as a girl.Though I don't know why I should say that for its mighty few or none of our boys of our nationality have an y shyness about them.I believe it is because he is a stranger in a country strange to him, though he is devoted to it nevertheless.He will grow out of this shyness.I never was shy in my life.Yet I remember an experience when I was on a spying trip in general Pugnoses's army."

Gertrude Angeline burst into a roar of laughter.

"I should have liked to have seen you then, Angeline."

"Angeline Richee joined in the laugh.

"It's true enough Gertrude.I entered the enemys lines, disguised as a child slave, and though I was there despite it was a risky job it was funny just the same.The Glandelinian officers were always bothering me about my manners, so that for the time being I could hold my own I pretended to be as awkward as a young bear.They used to have when off duty when we knew as Card parties, and plenty of boozing---and a fearful infliction they were--- and I was expected to hand round the whiskeys and other moonshine, and make myself useful.I think I might have managed well enough if I had wanted to but the Glandelinian officers of the older kind would not let me alone, they were always expecting me to do something they did notlike, and I was conscious too that whatever they were doing, they had an eye upon me, as they began to believe I was something else beside a child slave.It's trying you know, when you hear exclamanations like this"W ll for the love of Neptune, if she isn't the craziest child slave known"or,"See if she isn't standing on the flower of my hat.One day I purposely let a cup of coffee fall upon General Pudorals silken gray trousers as I secretly slipped something into my pocket pocket .It was the feat real goocsilken uniform pants he had on ever in his life I think and would have lasted him all his life maybe.And if you could have heard the explosion he broke into,and the exclamanation of the other officers,and the general excitement over that we wretched cup of coffee, you would never have forgotten it. He flayed me but I bore it for the sake of what I was therefor

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It hadone good result, I was never asked to hand things roundto the generals again, and was indeed never expected to put in an appearance untill the generals were away, and I was made to clean up their rooms.I only stayed there six months and that experience with the Glandelinian generals cured me of my shyness."."

"I am not surprised."Gertrude laughed,"I can only be skin deep, I fancy Angeline."

"I will give George his first lesson to night before taps."Gertrude said."

Night duty had already begun when Gertrude Angeline and George Zimmermon came to the Mess Hall for supper.Gertrude o introduce George to the best of the girlscout officers whom he had not hardly seen before orknow, and then hurried away.In a short time she waw was deep in conversation with Mary Stanck, who was some years older than her, and stolill believed herself to be on the road of being a saint, and yetwas a girlscout who was afraid of one thing.and that was sin. she was gorgeously arrayed with a plume of nodding feathers on her hat, feathers of five colors and which if she had been older and a man would have made her appear like some great chieftien.

"You are looking great to night, Miss Stanck."Gertrude said in a tone of deep admiration."You do not give your followers a chance I'm afraid."

"Maybe not, but you see I have only this one hat, and when I've offered to loan ot to som to wear for a time, they decline the officer."

"Nevertheless"said Gertrude you are certainly making quite a sensation. My young boy friend, the little German boy was tremendously struck with your appearance, and asked me who the splendid girlscout leader was."Which was true enough, exxcept she did not say all George had said,for as they walked across theraft the morning before and this day tod Georges eyes had fallen puon her for the first time, and he had exclaimed in astonishment;

"Who on earth is that splendid,and saintlylooking girlscout Gertrude.She re i reminds m of my dear mother.""He is dying to be introduced to you.He is not so young, you know, but of good family,and may become one of our great boy scouts some day.His parents are missing,.May I introduce him?"

"Yes "said Mary."By all means introduce him. but can he talk our tongue. I cannot speak German you know, though I do know a little French."

t"Oh!"Gertrude made her way back to George.

"Come along George,I will introduce you to the "saint" you spoke of twice to me.Charming creature, and lots of pk pluck and sense.Awfully struck with your appearance as much as you are with here.Come on boy, don't be foolish." and hooking her arm in George's she led him across the raftt to the good girlscout George had before noticed with such admiration.....!!

"Miss Stanck this is my boyfriend George Zimmermon, Goerge, this is Miss Stanck, of third highest girlscout leader, equal to us, although you would take her for one of our little girl "saints"of the past as she is just like one and will be I hope some day.Be good to her George and you'll not regret it.She'll give you instructions so you won't be shy, and so you may learn our ways so you can become a scout."

George murmured something in confirmation, and Mary Stanck at once rose to her feet and placed her hand in his arm.George gave an inquiring glance at Gertrude as she moved away.But he did not have anything to say for Mary burst out;

"It's too bad that I had not know you before Master George.Gertrude had spoken of you very often,and we girl leaders have been quite curious to see you.There's the bugle striking up.I thinkwe had better take our places at the Mess.I soppose as I am the third h head of this expedition we had better take the superior officers table."

George never forgot that general supper.Mary Stanck ate with the manner of high class people, and she sat erect,and the boy himself had a feeling that some strange person unseen by others was watching him and her and a mad desire to rush out and she w see who it was possessed him.He feared trouble.

"Miss Stanck is the same as ever."Gertrude remarked to Jane Malfort."She sets quite an example to us younger girlscouts."

The girl laughed."She is peculiar for goodness and bravery Gertrude.But som of us do wish we all had such wonderful hat dresses.every body is admiring her.George is doing nobly too, and you said he was shy.I was standing close by when you introduced him and I could see by your face you were up to something.Maybe you were playing a joke upon him."

"No not that exactly but a kindly action, I want him to start getting acquainted acquaintee with us girls, to lose his shyness, because that must be cured or he wouldn't be permitted to join us.The lad is somewhat bashful,and I found however that he chiefly admired Mary Stanck.She's one of the prettiest of us girls you know."

"Well you shall introduce him to me next." Mildred Maxwell who was having her wound redressed"said."I like hislooks, and he has done alot for us."

"Shall I tell t him that Mildred!"

"If you do I shall appreciate it."

As soon as supper was about over Gertrude strolled up with Mildred to the spot where Mary was washing her dishes, and George drying them.

"You sure look charming with those plumes on Miss Stanck.You sure look your part for an officer.Let me recommend a slight refreshment.Miss Maxwell, allow me to introduce our soon to be boy scout officer George Zimmerman."

George who had not caught the name bowed to the girl thus left suddenly beside him and offered her his arm.

"Why you look warm already.George"she began."That coffee you drank was too hot."

"Warm is no word for it."George said bluntly."Did you see the wonderful girlscout I ate supper with."

"She is our superior officer George, but she is rather wonderful just the same."

"G o George had thought before, that he was more warmer than it was possible for many one to be but he found now that he was mistaken.

"I beg your pardon "he stammered. "I didn't catch the nam of her rank but of course I ought not to have said anythin g."

"I wonder you didn't see her shoulder decorations."the girl said demurely. "She is one of our best."

"I' sure I could not see her commission the least bit in the world" George said emphatically"not the smallest.But I hope you forgibe me for that unusual remark but the fact is I felt a little bewildered at the time.I'm not c much at reading girlscout commissions by the appearance of their uniforms."

"I think you will learn though.I'll toll you the rank of our three highest leaders.Gertrude is Chief Commissionerly girlscout Captian, which in girlscout rank makes her our Captian General, Angeline Richon usually having different commands under her, is higher in rank still, and so is Marie the highest of us all.But here we do not show the superiority as only our own commands we have in person makes us the rank .Here Gertrude just now has been commissioned to be our loader by our casted votes.There she said" laughing at George's con u Confusion"You need not be afraid of my not forgiving you for the mistaken remark, every one os us all get on very well together as if we were all of the same rank,and I think it is too bad you i are not one of us, but you would have been if the Vivian Girl Princesses came back."

"Thank you Miss Maxwell"George said earnestly."The fact is I haven't been with you long.I am not so shy but I haven't got accustomed to talking to you kind of girls yet, you are altogether different from those of other countries,and Gertrude,---who is always up to some fun or other---did it just to cure me what she calls my shyness.However I can quite understand her now."

"I do not believe you are shy, but only think you are George ,,ildred" said with a smile."That last sentence was very pretty and if I was not holding your arm I should make you a courtesy."

"No please don't do that,I should be the one to do it."George said."Girls should be respected by men and boys."

"Now don't spoil it.You meant, I suppose what was quite proper. And Gertrude tells me that you have been through all sorts of adventures -- been carried off by the Glandelinians, held a prisoner among them for over two years, placed to command over child slaves, and done all sorts of things."

"The all sorts of things did not amount to much, Mixx Miss Maxwell, but the Glandelinians would not let me do a thing not even work.However that is how I picked up yout your language.There was nothing heroic about it that I had to play, and it was one of the Vivian Girls who secured my escape."

"Still it was an adventure."

"It was more than that, and upon the whole I think I liked it, except when theypulled me too close to a battle.I saw the action at Hendrick Junction between Cedernine Creek and New BNelkingburg.I was injured there and had a na narrow escape from being killed."

"That would have been dreadful.What would you have done?"

"Well I certainly would have never fought, but what I should have done I suppose have depended upon circumstances.I suppose I would have ran over tothe Angelinians if I had the chance."

"And is it true what Gertrude said, that you said you had to do like the child slaves in the enemys camp."

"No .I was under what they call Probation."

"She hinted that the rules was that any time you might have been caught talking secretly to a child slave you would have faced a death penalty."

"That was a fact.What nonsense that was." George exclaimed indignantly. "The idea of my being shot because I talk to a child slave.I did it in spite, took the chances and I'm here to day.It was through a child slave I befriended that one of the Vivian Girls brought about my escape."

"I think you will do, George"the girl said."Six to n sixteen or twenty four months in a glandelinian prison camp made you have good training, even if it came from the enemy.And you have paid two very nicely paid compliments in ten minutes.But there our supper is finished and we are all ready to depart."

"You are gettting on George."Gertrude said as they were leaving the big Mess Hall tent."I have had my eye upon you.You was quite a while with Miss Maxwell.But she is a very nice little girl scout, though very severe at times.I had thought of makingup in that quarter myself but I see its no use now."

"None at all"said George seriously."We are not exactly like brother and sister you know, but we now understand each other."

"What"Gertrude exclaimed in a changed voice."You q are not such a young ass as to govthat far alrwady before you have even becom one of us."!

"George burst into a laugh."That's good"he said."It is not often yet even that I get a rise out of you Gertrude."

"Well you did her a good thing nevertheless" Gertrude admitted, joining in the laugh."I thought for a moment you were serious."

"No"George said."I seldom make a fool out of myself, f very few Germans do unless they drink too much but I don't think I'll likely do that sort of a thing when I grow to be a man."

" I see, prior attatchment ---eh!" Gertrude asked quizzically.

"Ah that is a great secret Gertrude."George laughed."I'm do not like to lay my heart bare to such a mocker as you are."

.When they gotoutside on the raft they found a lot of boys and girls grazing shor ward.

"Is that you Miss Aronburg" Jack Saunders asked.Just after you had gone into supper, one of the men officers came and asked me if we couldn't get the raft a little furtherout on the water as there is something suspicious on shore and especially among the hills, and there had been strange colored lights flickering back and forth.I am glad you came out, as I did not like to alter the course of the raft without seding you world.It's a nus nuisance as it is beginning to get smoky again.However it can't be helped."

"I will go and mann the sails if you like"george said."I should like a little excitement this evening after that hot mess hall."

"Are you quite sure you would like it?" Jack asked winking his eye at Gertrude, while Hattie Kauffmann who stoood close by smiled,..."

"Quite sure."Besides its my turn for doing som service this evening, so that is i it is reallly my place to go to that work with the others if Captian Gertrude has no objection."

"Not the least in the world George.I don't suppose Jack has any fancy for working at the sails anyhow, as he once pulled a loose one down on top of himself, and it took nearly the whole force to get him from under it, and if you have experience with such things, there is no reason why you should not try to do the work since you have had such ex experience."

A couple ofminutes took George to change his good clothings for those for for form work, then George hurried ut just as the head officer of those working on the sail came up.

"We are going to have a thrilling trip of it Captian Saunders"George said."The shore per people whatever they are are starting to train a powerful searchlight tward us."

"All the better my boy.There willbe a thick mist of smoke overshadowing us anyhow; that will hide us better than this darkness of night, for even the searchlight could not reveal us.There is a glare of fire far awayat present and an unsual glare, and as likely whatever they are on shore they will have lots of men on guard.If they are friends we can signal and let them know.If w they are foes we have to make a clean movement.Are you ready my boy.!"

"Quite ready.Attention.workers at the yardarm.Form fours.Get to work. Hoist sails"and they started to work, causing the raft to turn to go more westward.

"How far are we going?"George asked Jack himself.

"It would be safe to go about seven miles I think."It's about half past six now, we ought to be able to get that far at about seven.It does not take long, and as long as we are not seen for sure because of the smoke haze I do not think there is any hurry."

"I hope you know the way."said George!With the fog it is so dark here now that we cannot scarcely see ourselves, and yet to risk a light on the raft would be fatal.And if the smoke thickens the darkness will be as black as ink."

"Oh I know the way."The officer said confidently.We will keep going westward for about two miles; then turn northwestward; follow in that direction for three mids,then branch to the northeast, and then floow straight northward till we are sure we are out of the sight of those on shore.We can find our way there through the water, and if we collide with objects we can push them aside.This raft is too solid to be injured but we do not want to be jammed."

"That sounds easy ohe enough."George said"But I c know how difficult it is to see what is coming in a fog of smoke unless of course it is more clear further out.nowever we must hope we shall get to Evangeline St Claire all right without more bad adventures.We have I know plenty of provisions."

"Sergeant"saidone of the men"Have we got plenty of munitions on board in case we are persued."

"Yes"said Gertrude herself.If boats pursue us we could blow them out of the water.I've planned for the long ago."

"That is a very good plan Gertrude. Gertrude. I shall bear it in mind myself for the future.We might need to use the guns before long I'm afraid."

The fine smoke fog or mist continued steadily as the raft continued on, but the night seemed to grow darker and darker.The raft turned due north west,and it began to go a little faster, and the cloud seemed to settled round them.The flare came from the search light but it missed the raft.Gertrude in command walked ahead, and gave directions, keeping the raft on the northwest course.something was moving on the shore; it could be seen by the motions of distant lights,and George followed as closely as he could the action of the lights, but although they were bright and glaring he could not make out any figures or ant anything else in the darkness and the fog.

"Tell the men who know how to work the guns to remain at their posts." Gertrude was heard to say"You sentries keep in toch with each other.As long as we are on the beaten waters we know we are right, but there may be jams or wreckage floes or anything close by on one side or the other and we do not want any collision now.Th e noise would attract those on shore."

Every one obeyed, and the raft proceeded on its way.

"How on earth are we going to find our way back to shore if we turn so far off, Miss Aronburg!" asked Jean.

"We shall find it easy enough, Jean."We have good spy glasses and we do not need to go too far on such a dark night.We can miss even the shore on such a dark night.We see the fire reflections so clearly and I do not believe the fogs would be that thick."

"Some boy struck a light with his flint and steel, and was looking at his watch at the point where they turned off from the road, and had done rthe same thing three or four times when Gertrude bore down on him.

"Out with that light, what do you think you are doing!"She demanded angrily."What us it own out of the water.Don't do it again or I'll put you off in a boat to shift for yourself."

"It's twenty minutes since we turned off, Miss Aronburg."said one of the girlscouts coming up at this moment."Even allowing for our stoppages in case we do ram anything we could soon be near the distance now."

"Yes I fancy we have made good time now Francis."

"And I can feel that the pr esure of the water is stronger now, and there must have been a slight rise in the water in the last couple of hours.As the current is strong we had better go a little more slowly now Gertrude."

Another five minutes the raft stoppped with a sharp grinding noise and a spray of water shot aboard, followed by the crash of falling wooddd.

"What is that!" "demanded Gertrude.

"The raft hit a wooden house that still remained embedded in the ground though it was almost submerged." one of the officers said,"A board hit me in the head and hurt me confoundedly."

"Don't you think we had better halt the raft till daybreak."

"I think we had better go on Miss Aronburg.The further we get away from that hostile shore the better, and if we should miss the sight of the shore we can halt and wait till dayb reak."

"Well we can do that."Gertrude said.

"The raft can go ahead about twenty or thirty paces,and the men can paddle"said Angeline Richon coming up having noticed the jar of the crash."This will be slow work, but we can keep cl a clear of dangerous objects if we go on at paddle pace.Have the sails lowered."

Gertrude agreed, the sails were lowered, and they proceeded in this manner for some time.

"I don't think we are in the right spot yet."George himself said.

"Oh yes we are."The officer nearest replied confidently.

"George took a long pole and drew it along in the water.It stopped at an object with such suddenness as to mk make George do a flop into Dolores who was standing near by, and they both went down.

"What caught your stick."she asked rising to her feet.

"Something."He said .The water is full of floating stuff and the stick was wrenched out of my hand and its gone.But we are moving into a jam I'll be bound."

"Dolores got a longer pole and followed his example but help it firmly as she didn't want an exprience that George had; who was trying to stop his bleeding nose, and at the same time calling for some one to bandage his scratched hand.

"We seem to be in a str trackless waste of floating debris of small size." she said."Maybe George your pole caught a floating tree.I am convinced we are leading into trouble."

"Well" George said,"just go a little way to the right, and left with the pole and see if the debris gets thicker.It seems to me all the same."

Dolores did so and was obliged to own that she did not see any difference.

George advised some of the men to use long pieces of boards and directed them to feel the water and see if they could discover any danger of the jam getting thicker.They failed to do so, but found bigger objects and one said his paddle must have struck against [illegible] house.

Gertrude was called to investigate and finally she said;

"We will wait here Dolores till day light.It's no use groping about in the dark.For anything we know we may be going exactly in the wrong direction and may go ashore instead of away from it.The men of course can retire for the night if they chose.We may be longer than a day before we get out of this, perhaps longer than we can expect."

The order was given, the men piled their arms, and made preparations to retire for the night.Presently George heard a sudden exclamation of surprise and alarm as one of the men had discovered a sudden flare from a searchlight on the shore edge which for a moment had struck full on the whole raft revealing every one to each other as bright as day.B fore scarce a word had been spoken, the men had been working in a sort of sulky silence, disgusted at being taken from their chances of getting to bed that night for work they disliked, and at the rafts long trip through the smoky air, but their surprise at this unexpected sight loosened their tongues.

Strange lights were appearing on shore in all colors the artists knows and the excitement caused the discomfort of the situation to be almost forgotten.Desmond hand handed to George a night glass.Gertrude aroused had also made her preparations.

"Maybe the light failed to reveal us anyway to them because of the smoke.Anyway we should be more certain as to our whereabouts, and what those are on shore if we only had a powerful search light of our own."said Angeline Richon.

"I have but I don't dare use it, it may draw fire on us."

"I don't deny that Gertrude, you were right as it has turned out only I wouldn't have believed that we could have run into hostile territory after escaping once and we did want to go out before we could be observed.I know they could not actually surprise us till morning, and then we could have been a way out of their range but there is no going further until we could see.

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Still if we could have gotten to some fine part where the water is clear or could observe what they are on shore before the alarm could be given we could know how to prepare ourselves.We don't want to draw the fire of our friends, nor fire on them in case that is what they are. We have come over the floods adrift many a time during dark, and never come into this situation before."

"If we only had a reliable cat or a dog."George said."A dog can see in the dark as well as a cat and can see even at this distance whether they are friends on shore.He can smell that..In the first place I can think he could see better in the night, and in the second he has some sort of instinct to guide his suspicions.However I don't suppose it matters so much, we shall know what to do easy enough in the morning.And as you said the smoke will hide our movements quite as effectually as the darkness would do."

Every one who was not on guard retired for the night, the raft was anchored there, and then at last morning the 9th of August began to break in a dim smoky light, and as it grew stronger they were able to perceive how dense was the smoke fog that surrounded them, and how almost suffocating it was at times so that every one had to place wet hankerchiefs around their faces.At one hundred feet distant everything was invisible.

"It does not seem to me that we are much better off than we were before so far as finding a safe course to go."said Holdrew who had risen first."What do you think?"

"It looks pretty bad."Jane Malfort admitted reluctantly."I'm awfully sorry the scare from shore has led us into this mess."

"It can't be helped." Gertrude said as she went out to meet others."We must make the best of matters.At any rate it is better than it was and the smoke mist is not nearly as heavy as when we were out here at night."

"How Colonel."said Gertrude"The men who are to do the paddling as may as well fall in."And then we must sit about sat about getting the raft on its way.It's so foggy that we are going to be puzzled.On which side do you think the land now is likely to lie Miss Richon?"

"I readily can't give an opinion Gertrude.You see there is not a breath of wind to help us, to clear off this smoke fog and in this sort of light which is no brighter than when a hurricane is raging there is no telling where the land is, my compass for some reason won't work so I don't know at this precious moment which side we are facing I don't know which is west, north east or south."

"Well we will try to head to the right first, Angeline Riches."Gertrude said."But with only the p: paddling as the sails will bring us too fast.I will direct the way.Let the men paddle slowly and stand at a distance of ten yards apa apart.I will on keep on speaking and giving directions.Do you George my German friend stand at the left of the rile, and when the last man has gone ten paces from you pass the word along.By that time I intend to be about one hundred feet away.If we have not found any sign of land by the aid of my fog glasses I will come back to you and do the same thing on the west or left I mean.If we don't light upon the right direction itself we will remain here untill the wind turns from the right direction and drives this accursed fog away."

ECHOES OF THE BATTLE AT SANITARY CREEK.

STILL SMOKE BOUND. THE FIGHT AMONG THE ROCKS WHERE THE RAFT IS JAMMED.

This was done but beyond finding that the flood was now covered with all kinds of floating objects no index as to their position was however discovered. "You see Angeline,We are on bad situation now and the flood is covered with debris to the right.How does that help us at all?"

"Not much Gertrude.The flood here is all rough and undulating in flood rollers."

"Very well then, we must try a movement forward.Now paddlers, pe place the men five paces apart.Do you Geo Colonel - u e put yourself in the center. I myself will remain where I am.Make the raft go straight forward if you can, but if you think it is going too much to the right or left you say so. The fact is, the floood is undulating and ought to be a help to us to keep straight.I wish it was however a little more calm then one would be able to tell directly whether one was keeping straight.Let the men speak to each other and give some advice every few strokes of the paddle; so as to keep the right distances apart."

Joan placed herself by Georges side; and the paddlers again started.For for half an hour they kept on, then Gertrude [illegible] or a grind;

"Halt.We struck something.I am certain we are going forw ard into a jam; it may be because we have changed our direction, or it may be because it is floating down on us.What do you think?"

"It is impossible Tonny."Angeline Richon replied."But it seems to me that we have been going straight, but when one can't see a hundred feet before one ,one may have turned any direction."

"How long do you think this rascally smoke fog is likely to last.It seems to be getting thicker."

"It may clear up as the wind shifts direction, but otherwise it may last for days.There is never any saying when we are in this Hades."

"Did we see any devil yet" asked one jokingly.

"No but you will if you don't keep quiet, and I'll be the one"said Gertrude. "This is no time for joking.Well at any rate Angeline we must give up all idea of making any attempt to go further out into the flood.That has become a secondary object now. But we have todo for our own safty is to either stay cooped up here or find our way out of this.Hitherto I have tried what we could do in silence for fear of attra ting those on shore.Now I shall give that up.Now Colos Con colonel get about sixty men together again.Get them all into boats;I will get into one and go ahead,and shall if I can keep on going. The boats though must be fastened to the raft so none of us will be lost.We or I intend to clear the way, while the raft is being paddled.If one dos that one must get out of this smoke Hades at last.When I get the boat about fifty yards I will shout.Then you send another boat on to me.When he reaches me I will shout again, and go another fifty yards.When I shout send another boat forwards.When he gets to the first man the last man is then to shout and then to come on to me, and you send off another.In that way we shall make a regular line fifty yards apart, and I don't thinkany one can get lost. Those in the boats must carry poles with hook s, picks, and also dynimite if necess ary.Should any on e get confused while at work clearing the way through or go astray, who which he can't do if he keeps his head he must shout till he k hears his shouts answered.After a time if he does not hear any answer he must fire his gun, and we must answer till he rejoins us.But if my orders are observed I do not see how any one can miss his way.You remain till the last and see them all before you.You quite understan dWhen each man comes up to the one in front of him with the boats he is to stop untilil the next man joins him,and then move on to the manhhead."

"I understand sir."

"They must not be in a hurry colonel, because no ving ahead as I shall; I shall have to move my boat to the right or the left, sometimes as to make sure or as sure as I can that I am stilll going through clear water and not get my own little boat jammed or I too will be bottled up and need aid.Now Colonel you do that, and you Georges will try to keep up with me as you can come too and between us we ought to find a way through."

The plan though quite risky seemed a good one, but if was difficult to follow, and might by the shouting attract fire from the unknown dirt direction of the shore whether enemies or not, as even friends would not know here who is on the raft, and may mistake them for the clandelinians.The motion of the flood here was so slow that George or Gertrude often differed as to whether their boats were going north or south, west or east, or standing still, and it was only by separating and taking short runs right and left, forwards or backwards, and working the oars carefully, that they arrived at any conclusion, and even then often doubted whether they were right, and four times George either collided into Gertrude, and almost upset her, or she did the same to him, once ramming him with a resounding crash.This all the fault of the smoke for growing thicker so you couldn't even see twenty yards..The shouting as the long line proceeded was prodigious and must have astonished any one on shore, but so far nothing unusual happened, though the sounding of signals came from somewhere.so bewildering was the smoke fog, that the men sometimes went to row back to the men behind them, instead of forward to the man, and girl in front, and once two men even rowed into the raft, and were captured and had to right their boats, and be helped in and resume their work dripping wet and long pauses was necessary before they even got right again.

Once Gertrude and George being side by side got rammed by six boats almost at the same time and though no disaster happened the crash made louder noise than usual.George finding the cause of the delays, and the collisions, passed the word down to the first man to keep on shouting"number one", The second"number two", and so on and this finally made matters somewhat better. The line of shouting men had at least the advantage that it enabled George to keep now a fairly straight course as the sound of voices told him if he was deviating much to the right or left.Once he struck a floating tree, and with his hook, knife, and a hatchet had to chop the tree to pieces to disentangle his boat.

"We may not be going straight." he said to Gertrude"but at least we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are not moving in a circle troublesom as this adventure is."

After some minutes movements, George upon his delight came upon a floating tree(moving from the east) all green yet with leaves.

"Thank goodness." he said"We have got a sort of guide at last.If we follow the way this came from we must get somewhere.We need not go on in this tedious way, but will halt here till all the boats come up."

"It was half anhour, six thirty in the morning before the Colonel came up in his boat.

"We have got a guide now Colonel,and can push on.I suppose you have no idea where this trees came from Colonel Mic Gibbon.?"

"Not at present."The officer admitted."There are thousands of them float ing about.They make their way down the flood from the northeast, and there is nothing to distinguish one from the other."

The rowers continued on more b i briskly keeping within hailing distance of each other.sometimes those in the boat encupon stuff floating in the water that was soft and mushy, and it was difficult to follow through it,but they went straight on, always keeping the ropes taunt so that the raft would follow,and after three hours of it came upon a mass of debris of all kinds, not heavy but thick and m massive.There was nevertheless a cheer from the tired men as they found they had pulled the raft to this as this had been Gertrudes intention.For if they were to be attacked, the wreckage jam would betray the attackers by noise.

"Now the question is shall we turn the raft to the right or the left, for we have not the faintest ideaas to the points of the compass.What do you say Gertrude.?"

"I should say that it is an even chance, but at any rate George, which ever way we go we are sure to come in time upon some good clear space of water, and when the smoke lifts we may know where we are.But at present row back to the raft, and we'll halt there or here tilll the smoke clears up."

"Very well then, we will take the right." George said.

"For forms of th fours of the boatmen Colonel"Se d shouted Gertrude.We shall get on better now by keeping in sight.Now Colonel if any of the men can sing let him strik up a tune with a chorus, but no war song remember. That will help us along."

There was a little hesitation, and then one of the men struck upa song and with renewed life, and vigor they all pulled along.,nd yet no sound from shore.It was n early twenty minutes before they heard the welcome sound of voices close by. Gertrude halted the men, and with her boat proceeded

towar toward this sound, and th n then discovered they were close to the raft, the voices being of those on board, some who were brought to the edge by the sound of the singing, and who were somewhat puzzled at the, to them at that moment the mysterous sounds.

"What part shall we get aboard again."Asked George.

"Where we have the gate."

"Bless me."One of the men exclaimed."We have probably towed the raft about twenty miles away from land. We are now clear of smoke here, and no land in sight."

"Then its evident we cant t get there to day."Gertrude said as she got on."Sound the depth of the flood here, and see if we can anchor.We must have come more than that distance since we halted in the night.Now Angeline, my good friend, our party of twenty men have succeeded in mypurpose, but it seems nevertheless we have lost our way in the smoke fog, andmust stop here for the n ight.How deep is the water?" to the man who was testing with a long pole."

"There are ten or twelve feet of it here Miss Aronburg."

"That s is all right then.We can anchor here, and every one may have their breakfast at nine.It's near that now. I will pay to the twenty men for the trouble they went through in rowing, and we will want our breakfast badly enough for we have come at least five or six or twenty m iles off shore and probably ten more than that, and we have had nothing but a bit of bread since we started."

.The men were on b a board, and they were ordered to go to their quarters and prepar e for breakfast.The colonel proceeded to his own and knowing that the cooks had been preparing it, and had waited for Gertrudes return Gertrude ordered the bugle to sound the breakfast call as all had fasted and wound not would not eat till she returned.

"We have every reason to considerourselves lucky indeed."George said as he said down with one of the boys a minute later to a meal of boiled potatoes and pork chops over a peat fire."It's threeee minutes after nine now, and it will be lighter in another half an hour if the sun can come through the brown haze.If h we had not struck upon that wide jam we should have gone further out than we intended.Gertrudes first measure after seeing that all were at their breakfast was to send a boy to telegraph off to Emperor Vivians army.Gertrude wrote an account of what had happened, and said that the raft was unable to proceed because of the smoke pall.Then directing it to any one who might be at the Emperor's headquarters to recieve it, she gave it to the lad who did the telegr p telegraphing, who at once started the telegraph going.

"It will reach there instantly."Angeline Richee said."The wireless is good, and no one can miss its call in the camp.It's lucky we turned the way we did for although it was taking us further from eam the shore it was better than risking fire from unknown foes, while if we had gone the right way it would have been six or seven hours before we could haveproceeded at all."

"I think we are lucky all around."Jane said."An hour ago if any one had told us we were going to sit down at nine in the morning to a hot breakfast of this kind we should have him dressed as a scoffer.It would have seemed too good to be true."

Gertrude ordered the Colonel to servenout to the men a ro tot of whiskey with his breakfast, and another hAd half an hour later, and by that time every body was prepared for the next move.

"This situ ti situation however is enough to give any one of us q nice scare George"said Gertrude as the boy came marching in."It seems as if we have almost lostourselves in the flood now and a nice time we might have of it out here.It is no use sending out messengers to look for the shore.If we could only hear the firing of guns somewhere we might be able to sound an n answer. But wherever we are I believe we will have to stay, but just now there's nothing to do but remain herauntill the wind changes direction and clears the air.Come in George with me I have some hot lunch waiting for you.Come in Jean.It's lucky you didn't get caught in the debris when your boat was captured this morning when we collided."

"Well George, you didn't bargain for all this when you offered to go out on the boat."Penrod said as they were seated at table.

"No, but it must be all over now,and I am glad I did it in spite of the difficulty we have had.It has been an adventure,and besides it was a goooood good thing to learn how it is the best way to pull the raft out of the smoke fog so we won't be dying of smoke fever."

"How did you manage." George."Gertrude herself asked"for once in such a fog of smoke as that we have left there reallly does not seem anything to be done, and I had lumped you so often."

"I don't know."he answered."I know once you rammed me hard and we both were almost captized."

"Wellbl really think you have done remarkably well again my boy.I should not be surprised if we have some more adventue before us, for we must get back to some distance for the further out we are the more dangerous the floatage may be that may strike us.I also have recieved some notice in a telegraph how bad the war is growing, for general Federal known as Pugnose had been committing all sorts of atrocities near Evangeline St Claire, and as it seems portion of the concentrating christian armds are threatening to make the region too hot for him at last, he is reported to have made his menuevers down to the southern sedt section not far from St Marys heightd, or somwhere in this direction, and all christian generals are ordered to keep a sharp lookout for him as Federal is moving northward and may strike at any time.He for a Glandelinian general is also an unmiitigated ruffian, and a cdesprate one and the most dreaded of all glandelinian generals.He has shot several spies already who entered his lines,and all his officers are nearly as bad as himself, and so strong is his army that I expect Emperor Hanson will have som trouble in worsting him.There has been a reward of more than an immense fortune for his destruction or capture but no one can capture him.One man who told of Federals intentions was captured by the enemy, and they massacred his wife and children before his eyes.We might be soun there and if a battle happens we could I hope be within hearing distance of it."

About an hour after to their surpr surprise a sergeant came in and said that a little girl with a woman had come to the raft all the way from the shore through the fog and wished to speak to Miss Aronburg.

"Come all this way!How did see find us.?"

"I do not know miss Aronburg."

"What do they want Sergeant?"

Th "Tis woman won't say what she wants Miss Aronburg only that she wishes to speak to you privately."

"Show them both in, se sergeant.Are you sure they are not armed.We cannot be too careful."

"They are not armed Miss Arunbyrg, and the little girl has been saying her Rosary."

The sergeant brought in the woman and the child, and retired.As soon as the tent door closed behind him, the women threw back her shawl which had almost covered her face.he was dressed more like a refugee, and must have been about twenty eight yea rs old and very pretty, and the little child was about eight, and still prettier.

"What can we do for you?" Gertrude asked."The sergeant wishes or says you wish to speak to me on some very particulalr business."

"Yes my dear girl and it is very particular business."

"You don't wish to speak to me quit e alone.?"Gertrude asked, seeing that she hesitated.

"No my dear child, seeing that your girl officers are here, and you have all good scouts and soldiers on board your raft there is no reason in life why they should not hear what I have to say.But sure, my child y my life would not be worth a penny if it were known anywhere beyond this raft that I had been here, and therefore I took advantage of the gof.I had followed you all night at any risk.My name is Jean Meldor my child and I belong to a large refugee camp from which I came.Well my child, the shore beyond which you are anchored is teeming with dangerous Glandelinian armies under a desperate furious leader, it is a part of Cannonias army and here a creek "Senitary by name "flows into the floud.He is massing troops at all points .We of course did not at first know he who he was or what army it was---how should we- -but thought it was som christian army, but now since what he did we know it is a glandelinian army.My husband was troubled in his mind over it.Of course he did did not dare to inform any one but he had heard so much of Isner Myletzes Glandelinian army and his proposed Angelinis Campaign ward Angelinis Agathia that he was uneasy at the thought of being so close by. Cannonia came to his house on the farm one day and my husband was not at all friendly to the enemy general, and the chieftian a girlish looking man noticed it, took offense, call his men and told my husband he was informing the christians of his movements.My husband said it was a lie, and they were nigh shooting him, but at last they said he should have the choice of joining the Glandelinian army or of being shot, and my husband driven to i it and seeing no other way to save his children from being murdered was forced to agree.Then the Glandelinian villains made him kneel down and take

a great oath to be faithful to the wicked cause and be secret. I was some distance off from the house, for I had caught up my two children and ran out by the back door when the Glandelinian generals came in, vut I managed to creep round to an open window so that I could hear what was said.When they took him away with them, I followed at a short distance for I wasn't sure whether after all they didn't mean to kill him.But they went up to their positions at the edge of the forest.Some of the Glandelinians who spotted me with my children however seemed more friendly like and did not arrest me for coming so close to their camp and so I went back.The next morning I took my baby son over to the refugee camp and told them my situation, and asked them to keep it saftly till I came back to reclaim it.Then I went to my home again and found it in flames.A day or two after that I found out from a foriegn refugee who could speak out tongue, and knew the Glandelinian general well that Cannonia had made up his mind to make a junction with Beppo Evans as the enemy w r were going to attack general Richee on the morrow if possible so I took a boat, saw your raft go off before the smoke came down on us, and had followed in your wake ever since and got here.Now you know my child that that I do not come here for the sake of a rw reward.Not a penny of it would I touch if I were dying of hunger, and sooner than be suspected as a spy informer even on the enemy as I'm not in the army I would rather take the chances of running away.But they have got my husband, and either they will make him as bad as themselves----which I hope and pray not--or they will shoot him or burn him at the stake, and if they don't kill him he will be mistaken for a desater and shot one of these days by the soldiers of the army.What I want you to promise my child is that if I point out where you can raid suddenly that portion of the camp you will warn your soldiers not to shoot my husband.But I come to ask you to recover him for me. I know you, have heard and read so much of you, and your great association with the Princesses, and know you can't fail in any undertaking you set on.You will know him easy enough my child for he is a foriegn looking man,and when the time comes you will find he will do what he can to help you.I foundout a way to steal into a portion of the campwithout being observed and I found him and had a chance to speak to Jim my husband for a minute.He is broken hearted my child but he dares not leave them.He says they had sworn if he ever tries to get away he would be charged with desertion now, and they would hunt him down, and Cannonia said he would send information to the Angelinia Aurthorities that it was Jim who helped him destroy a refugee camp where those poor creatures were massacred and would say he had been in the thick of it all along, and how could he prove the difference. So he dares not for the life of him move my child,cand warned me for y my safty to keep away and go home, for I could do him no good, and if the soldiers caught me speaking to him they would kill the two of us."

"I promise you willingly."Gertrude said."I will not say who pointed out the part of the camp they have your husband,and f if your husband does not join in the resistance he certainly shall recieve no hurt.However if he was caught with them by the soldiers of my assistant her father(pointing to Angeline Richee-) I w am afraid that he would not fare very well,ad for his purpose of giving in to them just tosave himself I shall myself be exceeding my duty by letting him go, as I will have to make him a prisoner, but surely he would have no difficulty in proving he had only accompanied them in consequence of their threats.Besie Besides we don't fare that way, as he is a deserter for going to their side to save himself."

"That is what he couldn't prove Gertrude.He didn't do it to save himself, but his children, he knew there was no chances for them and the generals swore together that if anything was known they would claim he joined them without request, and how could the man prove he wasn't?"

"Well Mrs Meldor I will try and strain a point if it is possible."

Angeline Richee said."I being one of the main Captians will try to do some thing.You see people sometimes escape after they are taken and I think we shall be able to manage somehow that Jim shall not appear before the court Marshall with the others, and if it should turn out that it cannot be managed and he will be our prisoner I will engage to make some representations to the aurthorities under the Vivian Girl Princesses that you e your husband shall go free...."""

"Very well Gertrude, then I will tell you where the weakest Glandelinian position is to be found.I can't take you there my child, for if I do I'll bring you shoreward before you havethe pre proper preparations to go but I can reveal to you where it is so you can make the assault without loss.When you reach that part of the shore, straight ahead east from where you have your raft inposition now, there is a long footpath that turns off from the creek at the end of a cove and goes straight on up and among a wall of

big rocks that come out of the flood waters.: Well Gertrude a few hundred yards to the left of that rocky wall there is a sort of break among the forest,and there is a track goes up there.You won't see itunless you look close for it, and it gets lost a little way up because the rocks are all broken about and heaped on each other. It's up that way the enemyposition is.There's always many sentries on watch not far from the top and there's generally many messengers who would run forward and tell the nearest sentry on watch if he saw any troops moving tward the Glandelinian position.So you will have to benighty careful but they are up there sure enough, somewhere.But avoid the main line of the enemy or you will all be lost.Jim told me there was no chance of the enemys position being taken by general Vivianias army for if the alarm is given they would train machine guns on every space where an advance would be expected and the infantry would be in ten rows firing at one time.I can't tell you any more than that, but I think that may be enough to help you find them."

"I should think so too, Mrs Meldor.And what do you propose doing yourself?"

"I shall go off Gertrude at once.Folks in the refugee camp have been wondering about me and will be asking what I was doing out on the floood so long, and I want to get back home before anything happens.If it came to the ears of any of the Glandelinian generals there was a woman talking with girlscouts on a raft he they might guess it was me, and if they did, they would not only shoot my husband, but comb the whole world to get me.I can't see as I can do any good by stopping on the raft, and I may do harm, so I will go over to a new post after getting my baby and stop there till I hear what you and your bands have done.If I find Jimmie has got injured I shall come back, if not I shallreturn to my home as I'm confident Miss Richess father willworst Mylstze.Maybe you will tell him I shall be expecting him there."

Gertrude accompanied heroutside to see that no one spoke to her, and when she saw her disappar over the water in the fog in the boat with her vhild she went back to the tent.

"I think you had a lucky escape George."she said as she entered."Th e full matter is explained now about your suspicions on the edge of the raft and of that sergeants warning, and it is very lucky the Glandelinians on shore did not open fire on the raft when you were s standing at the edge for if they had we would be having a Mass for the Dead said for you for the enemy would shoot you asmuch as a cat would kill a sparrow.Wek Well, this is a splendid most important bit of news.I have heard about this and the surthorities have for a long time been trying to lay their hands on this man for his apperent desertion, but he was fored to accompany the foe, and so if we can rescue him and get him pardoned it will be a feather extra in our caps.The Glandelinians fear us girlscouts despite our guady way of dressing for the last two years. Now we must arrange the line of battle on our side how it is to come off and when, but we must strike only when we see General Vivianis is going to be victorious.We got to wait for the battle to begin.In the first place we must arrange with one of the christian generals by telegrapg to have a strong force in readiness to support us and a well manned battery to cut the Glandelinians down if they moved against us after we had seduree secured their prisoner.The attack must be made when the enemy is losing battle with Vivienia, that is evident,and o to attack at night is impossible for half our men would get lost in the hostile territory or break their legs or their necks if they tried to do it in the dark.I think it will be best to place half the company along the top of the cliffs posting two or three hundred men all armed with our little mach n machine guns at every point where it looks possible that they may ascend, then with the other half we will go up on this track she speaks of and storm the whole territory fiercely.If we can get help and overwhelm them we willgain great reputation."

"Who is this general Cannonia?"asked George.

"A great foe leader highest next to Mylstze.Though Mylstze is more humane Cannonia is almo always mixed up in the brutal actions of the war..He had moved forward once at the beginning of his career from Dublinia State southern Calverinia.He went through Standard Junction with his divisions, where he was first heard of,was whipped twixe twice in battle, then he embushed a christian army when it came up upon him massacring children, and though worsted in the fight got away, and it was months before he was heard of again.It was thought he had gone over to Join Manley in his campaign but I suppose he got up an army of his own of great size and moved to aid Mylstze in his campaign.The next thing heard of him was that he was back again at his dreadful work.The christian generals of course were ignorant as to what had become of him the time he disappared, but the scoundscoundrel made no secret of what he had been doing, and boasted of having destroyed two christian armies, refusing to give quarter.Of course every effort then was made to drive him off but in vain. He began to win good victories.

Many christian spies have informed against him for he was hated more than any other for his violence and overbearing way, and he established terror wherever he went.He was joined by three or four other foe commanders with new armies and then he made this junction with Mylstze with whom however he has been forced to behave a little better.He has killed four or five great Counts at various times, and I should say massacred twice as many as ten thousand children who have ventured to expose him.He and his bands also levied a sort of black mail wherever he went,and woe betide any town in the path of his advance.Their inhabitants were killed and their houses set on fire and so in a short time he had the whole region in hispossession.When ever a army went in pursuit of him he was sure to obtain early information.H s J His spies were very active although any other person too failing to send in instant word of the approach of a christian army would sufer for it.Just as we left I heard that a company of foot and a t troop of cavalry were to be sent from Calwayton Junction to search every section and mountain recess in the district nand that is what I suppose drove him to make a Junction with Mylstze.His long bohed red hair, and it is this partly, and his sissy face, and partly no doubt the generals murderous character that has gained him the name of the "Red Shadow." He is a prize worth defeating or taking, and if we can some day sid our armies to crush him we shall have done better work than if we had gone treasure hunting.At any rate when the conflict comes we will lose no time.It's a good thing that woman informed us that we were near by of the region and therefore we kept up with vivianis all the time without knowing it.I will write a la letter at once by wireless telegraph to any officer of the christian army we can get toanswer it.Ishall mention no names, but say that we hope to make an important capture of a "deserter" the day of the battle and ask him to send by a secre6 secret rout a well arme d force.If any artillery can be spared I will tell him to have the batteries cover our own movements for it will he a dangerous undertaking.As it might be a real severe fight none of my girl or boy followers must participate, but remain on the raft to cover our retreat in case we are worsted and have to retreat at an untimely moment."

"Gertrude at once wrote the telegraphic letter.

"Sergeant Turpo"she said, when the non,commissioned officer came in "I want you to telegraph this letter to general Beppo Kvans of the christian side of vivianis's army,I will give you the location and number of station which Miss Richee gave me.It is of the highest importance.I want you to do the telegraphing yourself and get the answer from him."

Then she said to the Colonel;

"When we land I will send you on another message.Take a large number of men with you,and carry your side arms.Don't go along the wall of rocks, but keep to the road tillyou come to the lane that leads direct to the cove.Just tell Mildred Maxwell to come here willyou."

"Mildred"she said,"when that girlscout appared,"I want you to have your sergeant lend disguises to the colonel and a score of men and hats or cam caps of any kind.I am going to send a score of my men on a scouting tour before we land our full force of men and I don't want them to be noticed. It does not matter how old the clothes are so that theyare long and make the men appear like peasants."

"I sure will get them Gertrude.I have found one that will do for the colonel,and will have one of my girls find the rest."

"You see Co/ Colonel,I don't want your strange presence in the woods to be noticed.You know how scouts and glandelinian sentries are so watchful and han g together in squads.The sight of a s o score of soldiers in uniform there would be sure to attract attention.Choose the men you can rely on to play their part cleverly.I tell you to only take your side arms because I happen to know there are men about, who if they suspect your mission,would not have the ledst hesitation of opening fire on you.This is no question of finding a forest fire and detect its movement Colonel, but of making the capture of one who had gone off with the foe rather than risk his life to refuse,and to frustrea frustrate frustrate one of the most desperate Glandelinian forces in the country, and it is well worth t the taking of the utmost pains and precautions to ensure everything going well."

"I understand Miss Aronburg.I will take a score of my trusty men with me, they have plenty of good character.o if any one should speak to us as we go along, one of our men can do the talking, and no one willsuspect that we are not a bunch of country men."

"That will do very well colonel.It is just nine thirty now.If Captian Andrean Leander is not bus y when you are prepared you ought to be able to get started as soon as we dras draw near shore.It's about four miles away for us after all as the woman said. I would secure a number of heavy sticks if I were you.I don't think it all likely however there should be any occassion

to use them but it is just as well to be prepared.If when you get near the foposition or on your way back you come across any Glandelinians who question you inquisitively, and seems to you to be also a suspicious character, I give you aurthority to make him prisoner if you can and bring him back to us with you.Knock him down if he attempts to fight.You may as well take a number of pairs of handcuffs with you and rope too.The object of the rope is, that if you capture anyone on your way up you had better han handcuff hum him gag him, tie him to some tree or some other object at a distance from the road, and pick him up as you com back.And I do not need to say that you are not to go too near the foe position, and not to speak to any one without necessity."

"I understand Miss Aronburg,and you can rely upon me to carry out your orders."

"You had better fetch the best man in here Sergeant.Tell him what he and his followershave to do before you bring him in,then we can see the disguises on all of you,and its better for you to start from the cove,where there will be no one in sight to see us make a landing."

Mildred returned with the disguises almost immediately after the Sergeant had gone out,and in a fewminutes the latter came in with the twenty men.The long great coats wersput on, the caps put in place of the military hats, and with the colors of the coats turned up as if it was a cold day and the addition of twenty heavy sticks, the disguise was complete, and the twenty soldiers would pass any where as peasants or beggars.

"You had beter take your gaiters off, sergeant, and you too Colonel. You look too neat about the feet,although that would not be noticed unless you went into the clear air or the light. Do good scouting.There now I think you will do."

After the raft had been near shore and partly beached they were off, and it was about an hour after, unusually short when two of the soldiers returned.

"Here's a letter Miss Aronburg which I secured from a Glandelinian officer whom I surprised."said one of them.You willquite understand what is going on by its contents.The other men reached the christian army and were ordered to remain for a time but you will be supported as you asked.I also have a letter from general vivian and too.He does not know how you kept up with him all this distance.But he thinks yourplan will succeed and he hopes you captre Cannonia in the bargain."

"I don't think I willtry that"said Gertrude with a smile."It will cost me too heavy aloss even if successful.You met no other suspicious characters Mr."

"No Miss Arunburg.We saw no one, at least there didn't seem to be a soul in the whole territory es except the enemys linesobeyon d and we finally got hold of a refugee kid who had been snooping around the foe lines while in hiding and he told me where it was easier to reach the christian lines.All of us succeeded without trouble."

"All the better my man.The great object is secrecy.Now leave these things here andput on your un form uniforms again.Go to Jack Sanders he has orders to give you a glass of grog each.Don't say a word as to where you have been ,but get backto your quarters.When you have had your grog, look in again before before you go."

When the men had gone out, Gertrude Angeline opened the first letter ,which merely confirmed what the soldier had said.The enemy was making a profound blunder.Myletze was absent and Cannonia was peparing to attack Vivienia without his aid. When Angeline Richee came in Gertrude told her that all the men were to be ready as soon as a signal flared in the sky that the enemy were losing .

"Don't give the order till you see three rockets in the sky.We don't know yet when the battle will begin you know."

Then Gertrude went outside.

"Everything for us is going perfect boys"she said,"and we have I believe good chances of surprising the enemy when he is worsted if the battle begins to morrow the 10th.However we must insure that word is not sent from any where when our troops begin to move ashore right now.A stir at this time is sure to excite a remark,and it is certain some one may be out scouting and therefore we must make arrangements to make sure no strangers reach the enemys lines.I propose that two of you strongest men shall go ashore first before the troops land, and that you shall before anyone else is moving ashore go along the path leading to the rocky wall stop a couple of hundred yards beyond the small village there,and arrest any one who may come along who is headed for the foe lines no matter whether it be man, woman or boy or girl."

"Yes I think that will be a very good plan." a lieutenant said whose name was Buster johns."No one shall pass us I'll warrant."

"Don't forget to take your fourty five revolvers it is likely enough you may have to use them before the day is over.The Glandelinians if they are whipped in battle know they fight like men fearing the ropes around their necks and if surprised in the rear are sure to resist most desperately.Now all of us boys and men and girl too if they like will have one glass more,and then all you men be off to shore.The boys and girls must remain behind to defend the raft if it is attackd during our absence and if you are hard pressed push off to prevent its capture.The night will soon come in a few more hours,and I will impress upon my lffvofficers of the stern duty needed to be performed."

"I suppose we girls and boys are to stay here in the raft till you come back with your company whether you takeprisoners or not, or shall we be expected to meet you elsewhere?"asked Jane Melfort."

"The best way is to remain here Jane.If you see a signal then of course go elsewhere along the shore.If you two men have caught any one running toward the foe lines to give information I will send them back with a guard to the raft.No it would not do for any one else to move untill you girls see a signal of some kind, a rockey by night, or hear a signal bomb over head by day for there is nosaying, where we may come back to the shore when we captur capture that womans deserter hun husband.The Glandelinians may not take the alarm before we are starting for we do not intend to let them see us make a landing.It's foggy enough with smoke yet to hide our movements.By the way you may take a couple pair of handcuffs the sergeant has left on the table with you otherwise if yu do get a prisoner and he is a pwerful man you would have to keep your handson his collar or he might knock you down and make a holy bolt at any moment. There is nothing like being on the safe sides.and besides you had better tak yourpost at someplace where your figures will not be seen by anyone coming along any road or path way till he or she is close to you, as you know the foe have child scouts too or instead of coming straight along the on coming person might make a bolt round, and any of these scouts of messengers can run like heres, even though they might be child scouts of the enemy nine years old.We must not under any conditions let the smallest chance escap us. Ifwe all succeed in the a fair we shall get no end of credict from the Vivian Girls besides the satisfaction of cutting through the enemys lines which we have only done once before and that's saying much.Now here's success to our work when we hear of the battle, and offer up a prayer to night that our success will come."Gertrudedrained her glasses glass and placed it on the table,and then rising and taking up her sabre made her way to her own tent,her officers at once following her orders.

It was about ten oclock in the morning when Gertrude who knowing or thinking it was not necessary to do the work too soon was roused by Jean Saunders, who had heard a funny rumbling, and clattering noise something like a noise we hear when a tornado passes through a forest, and Gertrude lost no time in getting up, looked to the prini priming of her own fourty five revolvers and placed them in her cartridge belt.every one was ordered to remove their dress uniform and put on their fighting equippment. Then she went to the eastward of the raft and listened for the sound which Jane had heard but could not tellwhat it was though she fancied explosions were hard and she thought the forest fires were doing it.The two men already had gone ashore to intercept the messengers as proposed in case there were any. Gertrude decided to go ashre with Angeline Richee and Jack Saunders to investigate the sound.

"To Mildred she said"I want a bottle of brandy a small one, a loaf of bread and a big lump of cheese."As she was waiting for these Angeline Richee hjoined her.

"That's right Angeline, "said Miss Richee, there's nothing like laying in a stock of creature comforts when you have a chance.Look here mildred,, pay get an empty bottle andput half the whiskey in, and then fill them both up with some of that gingerale we have on board.Vut that loaf of bread in half in that way we can get in the boats with the bread in our pockets without crushing it.That's right now do the same with the big peace of cheese.You and I may not be together Gertrude so it is just as well to divide it to say nothing of the convenience of carriage.Now I took a pair of handcuffs and here's a pair for you Gertrude.That's right now, we will be off at once."

Mildred went to the raft's gate with them, and looked after them, some what surprised at seeing no soldiers on shore.

"What can she be up to by themselves at this hour of the morning!"she said to herself."Well she is a good scout and a guide anyhow and through her Gertrude won't be lost but I hope they are not going into any danger.Now

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I will just make up the other ne preparations, and then sit down for an hours sleep in m on my cot.Grecadelinia said she was to be called on duty at eleven its ten thirty now.I suppose theyare going out to hunt for signs of Emperor Vivians army or Evangeline St Claire city.Will I wish them luck."

Not a soul was or astir in the forest as the two young girlscout officers passed along.They turned off at the cove leading to the flood and after proceeding to a quarter of a mile came to a point where the roadway came to a sudden and at a quicksand bog, thepath beyond this being merely a track. Testing it they found the quagmire was solid on the surface because of the dry spell and would hold a cannon even.They passed over the bog carefully however and beyond this came to where an abandoned country house stoood.Here there was a gate across the lane, and a long stone wallll ri running right and left.

"We can't find a finer spot than this, Angeline."gertrude said."If we sit down on each side against the walll, a thousand men might pass along in wide columns without noticing us in this smoke fog which is not so thick now."

"Which side shall we take our seats Gertrude?"

"We will sit at this side."Gertrude replied."If we were on the other side any one passing might possibly wrench himself or herself away from our grasp and a man you know can outrun us girls by a mile, but on this side of the gate they could not do so for even if they did break away, they would have to run back tward the way they came, the gate which we have securely fastened will stop his going the other way."

Accordingly the young officers took their post against the wall, one on either side of the big iron gate, and with their sabres drawn awaited the coming of any one heading for the enemys lines whether it be a single person or many, for if there are many their pistols which they can fire like a mic machine gun will be a help to them.

"Of course there des not seem to be a chance of any one being here for some time."Angeline Richee said.The men will not be ashore before one oclock therefore no one is likely to come along untillwithin a few minutes of the hour.It's precious hot here though the wall does shelter us from the hot winds a little; still its not a lively job having to wait here half an hour or so, sweatheing sweating and smothering at the sametime with the thermometer somewhere above the one hundred ten point."

.The time passed slowly.They exchanged a few words once in a time in low tones, but as the time approached when they new knew the soldiers would start to come ashore they spoke less.

"It must be nearly one oclock now."Angeline said at lat last."The men would be called at about fifteen minutes to one so if anyone is coming he or who ever it is will most likely be here in a few minutes.Hush I think I can hear the galloping of a horse."

A few minutes later they dimly saw the figure of a horse running tward them at full speed.As it and the rider dashed up to the gate they sprang out and seized the reins.There was a sharp frightened cry as the rider was pulled from the horse.

"Don't make a sound or we'll plug you."Angeline Richese said sharply"If you even show fight it'll be ty the worse for you.Where are you going kid in gray?"

"It was a Glandelinian girlscout of about twelve or some years older whom they had captured and she wore a Glandelinian girlscout uniform.She was silent for a moment.

"Sure Miss girlscout in purple clothes"she said in a whimper"I was doing no harm.I was only running to telothe christian dog that the enemy under Manley is comin g here,and I wanted to warn Empror Vivian whois over there."

"Where do you expect to go to reach Empror vivians army in heaven, you little liar."Gertrude asked."We know indeed what you are up to.You were riding off to tell the foe that my soldiers are landing here.Now if you will remain quiet and keep still no harm will come to you, but if you just try to make a sound or dare to scream or fight us to get away, we shall place you where there is darkness and gnashing of teeth and there is no saying whether it may not be a hanging mater anyhow for aiding the enemy."

"I suppose we do not need to fasten her ?"Angeline Richee said.

"Not fasten her.Why this Glandelinian girlscout is as sl slippry as an ell and if you just let go of her for a single instant she would be off like a flash.No, no, we must make her safe.Besides"she whispered in Angelines ear"she would surely scream if she say any others coming or a foe scouting party, then they might either strike off and get round us or come in large enough numbers to attack us.No indeed, we cannot run any risks, /there is

too muh dependingupon it.J Now just sit down there little girl by the wall.As long as you do not resist we are not going to hurt you but if you do not keep quiet we'll run you through.You'd do the same to us.Nowput your feet together." Angeline took out her pocket han dkerchief and folded it,and tied the girls ankles firmly together.

"Now then Gertrude do the same with her wrists."

It was accomplished.

"That's right now.Wrap that thin shawl of hers three or four times tightly around hermouth.That's it let her breathe through her nose.Now you keep a sharp watch over her,and see that she doesn't make a sound.When any one else comes up you can let go and help me if necessary it won't matter her being able to give a scream then."Now she went on this time speaking loud"If that girl makes the least noise run h r through with your sabrwe at once.Don't hesitate a moment."

"Very wall"Gertrude said in the same tones."I will silence her never fear."

Gertrude said down close to the girl and watched her sharply. Th y They had fixed the shawl as well as they could, but she felt sure that by some easy and sudden effort she could free her mouth sufficiently to scream.She sat perfectly still, but in about three minutes she saw her suddenly throw her head back, and in an instant she clapped her hand tightly over her mouth.She struggled violently in spite of her bonds and tried to bite, but with the other arm she held her head firmly, and succeeded in preventing the slightest sound escaping her.Then she glanced up the path.As she had expected the girls quick ear had heard approaching footsteps that were distinguished to her. Two figures on horseback too were riding rapidly tw r twards them.This time they were men.As they reached the gate the girl Angeline Richee spran sprang into sight with two pistols at the level.One refused to stop, a and she killed him right there, the horse running on without its rider.She then sprang upon the back of the other horse.There was a sharp scuffle for a moment and she knocked him off the hose almost head first.

"All right Gertrude I've got him."

"It was a young Glandelinian officer of some twenty years old this time. The other man who was killed was about fourty.He struggled most furiously though both Gertrude and Angeline was on him, till finally Gertrude plhced a pistol against his head and told him she would blow his brains out if he was not quiet, and taking out the handcuffs fastened them on his ankles.

"There is no fear of his having the chance to run away now.Just come and sit down by the wall my beautiful grayback, and remember if you make the slightest sound I will ro run my sword through your body or fill you full of lead, which ever is the quickest."

The Glandelinian officer shuffled to the wall and sat down.

"That girl is a regular wild cat like us Angeline"said Gertrude."She very nearly got my hand in her mouth, and if she had she would have bitten spince out.Well I shouldn't think there will be any more of them."

"No I should think not.They would scarcely send off more than two messengers. However we must still continue a sharp lookout."

But no one else came along, and in the quarter of an hour more they heard the deep tramp of a large body of men appoaching, and the coo colonel soon came up at the head of Gertrudes large escort of men.

"Well any good news Miss Gertrude?" he asked as the two superior girlscout leaders stepped into sight.

"Yes Colonel Watson.We have two prisoners a Glandelinian child scout and an officer.They came along about ten minutes apart, this girl, and two men one of which was shot all riding at full speed and evidently going to the enemys lines with messages.We put the handcuffs on the officers ankles and tied the girls with our handkerchiefs."

Gertrude then said; "Sergeant tell off three men and let them take these prisoners back to the raft, and have all the boys guard them carefully till we return.They may as well keep the handcuffs on the boys ankles, and untie the girls but let one of them keep a tight hold of her arm,and be sure that she doesn't slip away."

Three men were told off for the duty, two for the Glandelinian officer, and the march of the column of soldiers was resumed.The sun was faintly breaking through the smoke when they reached the edge of a cliff near which all was forested.Lieutenant Rap Ralph with three hundred and ten men was posted across a spot where a slight track was visible going up into a sort of glen. Gertrude Angeline with the heart of a soldier instead of a girl took the lead and proceeded with half the Company to the left, the Colonel taking the remainder twards the right each posting men at intervals along the edge of the cliff and alo g the stretch of thinner trees,and placing parties of

fifties at every point where there appeared the smallest probabilities of an ascent being practicable.All were ordered to load at once.They too were to make prisoners of anyone coming up or down the hill and in case of resistance to fire without hesitation.The two officers then returned to the spot where they had left the girls.It was now nearly one fifteen.Leaving the soldiers they went a short distance to a point where the rocks fell away prod precipitately and from here had a clear view of the onemys position far up the slope the portion indicated by the woman.

"We had better wait here for a time."Gertrude said."The chances are that before long one of the sentries will look out from their hiding place and perhaps make his way up to the top to look around.If he does that will give us an index as to the direction we can move to make our surprise attack.I'm not going to wait for the battle as that may make us lose our chance.Now I will take the ground in front, do you Angeline watch to the left, Colonel you to the left.We had better lie down, or on this jutting point we may catch the eye of the Glandelinian sentinels before we can see them.Keep a sharp look out skirmishers it will save us a world of trouble if we can see the sentinels first."

For half an hour they lay quiet, then Angeline suddenly exclaimed;

"There are six men among those tall pine trees half way up the side.There they are gone.Perhaps we shall see them in a moment."

For five minutes they lay with their eyes fixed on the rocks and the trees indicated but there was no sign of life.

"I believe you were mistaken Angeline."said Gertrude.

"No I wasn't. The six men appeared suddenly by those tall gray trees, paced back and forth for a moment and disappeared.I expect being above they must have secured a view of one of the soldiers somewhere along the top."

"We will try and wait another ten minutes."Gertrude said,"and then we will move forward.There is the reinforcing party coming so there is no fear of our expedition being a failure."

Another quarter of an hour passed.

"It's no use waiting any longer.Go along the line one each direction, and order the men forward.We will leave some below to cover our retreat afer after we secured our man.There can be left over a hundred of them and the rest of us are ample for the business."

The arrangements were soon made .Before starting on the ascent Gertrude said to the men or their officers and told them to instruct their men thus;

"We do not wish to take any personal Glandelinian position as that just now would be impossible.The army is under Cannonia known as the "Red Shadow" and he is a dangerous commander and he has commited a score of murderous massacres.There is one man among the Glandelinians we wish to capture or take away among them who is there on compulsion,and is less guilty than the rest though we can hold him for desertion, even though this is a rescue party for his sake.But we don't excuse him going over to the enemy even by compulsion as we would not do so ourselves.He is a fair haired man,and it is easy to notice the difference between him and the real foes.Whatever resistance the Glandelinians here will make I n do not believe he will join it.At any rate do not fire at him untill unless it is absolutely necessary to save life. Now see to your priming before you start and fix bayonets.Mind how you climb over these rocks because if any of you fall your muskets may go off,and shoot some one in front of you.Wherever it is possible scatter out abreast of each other so as to prevent the possibility of an accident.Now then march."

Leading the way Gertrude Angeline ascended the little track. It extended but a short distance.Beyond that a chaoes of thickly grown trees stretched away so thickly that even a baby couldn't squeeze through."

"There is no use trying to get through here Angeline"said Gertrude after they had climbed along for some little distance.We had better make straight to the left, follow that for a bit, and then mount again to the point where the propoer position of the enemy is.Lucky it is far from Cannonias main line."

It was difficult work but at last the party reached the right spot.Lucitenant Gendorn who was himself in command of the other section had watched the party making their way down the rocks and forest and now advanced to within a few yards."

"Good afternoon Lieutenant."Gertrude said."I think we have them fairly hoodwinked, but doubtless they would have suddenly attacked us if they had seen our movements.It's an advancedposition of the notorious Glandelinian leader Sissy Faced Cannonia, who is I hear in hthis locality with his whole army."

"Indeed I know it "the officer said"and if you get that deserter it will be a capture worth making.Shall I come up with you with about two thousand of my men.I expect they are more accustomed to climbing than yours are, and I

should like to lend a hand ifpossible."

"Do by all means."Gertrude replied."I see you have got ten thousand,and six thousand will be quite enough to l be left to cover our retreat even if the enemy do mmare to counter attack us which I don't think they will.Your men are all properly armed I suppose?"

"Yes, pistols, muskets, and grenades.Now Ca t Captian I leave you in charge .Stay to about a quarter of a mile from this point,and if the enemy counter charge drive on.Now forward the rest of you."

"When the lieutenant Colonel and his four thousand men had come forward, the parties under Gertrude also made their way along over the rocks and through the woods untill they were opposite the spot where Angeline Richee had seen the sentries appear.Then the ascent to the assault was commem commenced. The men officers went first, the men following in double line.

"Bear a little to the right."Gertrude said"The glandelinian position is likely to lie somewhere in thatposition or direction.The men we saw would have been making tward the path and not from it.Keep a sharp lookout between these great treeces there is no saying where their position may be."

"QAlmost as she spoke there was the crackling roar of hundreds of distant rifles, and one of the bullets struck the rock on which Gertrude was or hand been standing.

"On everybody"she screamed"The sooner we are there, the loss time they have got time to fire on us."and with a cheer the men hurried forward, scrambling recklessly among the rocks, and dodging from tree to tree as they advanced.

Again and again hundreds of puffs of smoke darted out from distantpoints in front, and sixteen soldiers fell some shot through the head or heart.

"Don't stop to fire."Gertrude shouted as a yell of rage broke from the en"You will do no good, and it will only give the enemy more time."

A dozen more volleys were fired, and it was added by shell and canister.

One of the men officers was shot through the shoulder but this was the only loss now for the quick movements of the men disconcerted the aim of the enemy above.Breatheless and panting the officers and men gaind the spots from which the firing had come from, the men close up behind them but the enemy was retreating. In a few minutes to their surprise not a soul was to be seen.

"Wait a moment till most of you get your breath."theirleaders said."They can't have retreated far from here.We willfind their hidden camp presently never fear."

As they stood panting there was a shout from sho somewhere a above.The soldiers who had reached the top were standing along the edge of the cliff looking down upon the fight.One of the sergeants waved his arm.

"They have made their retreat to your right Miss Aronburg."He shouted at the top of his voice."We have just caught sight of them among the glens. We have to be careful, there are many thousands of them.If they flee tward the main line our adventure will be of no use."

In two or three minutes, Gertrude Angeline though stillunder fire from unseen points led the way in that direction.

"Keep your eyes sherply about lads as"came the order!"Most of the hidden foe are using smokeless rifles.No doubt the position is cunningly hiddon.Move carefully among every clump of bushes and from behind one tree to another and don't expose yourself too much.From the cracks of rifles they are firing h eavily as they retreat."

"Presently the sergeant shouted again from above."I think you are far enough now Miss Aronburg.We did not catch sight of them much beyond that direction."

For an hour the attack continued without avail, and many times Gertrude was narrowly missed by the enemys fire.

"They must be ambushes somewhere lads"Gertrudes said."We willoust them from this nest if we have to continue the attack for a week or more,and have provisions brought down from the raft.It(s pretty evident there is no opening between the great forests or we must have found it but we can sure hear the crack of the enemys rifles.We must go forward carefully,and examine every spot with our glasses officers,where we see the puffs of smoke.The glandelinians may have placed themselves in some unseen position.That plateau is a likely lookingposition for instance. Three or four of you men heave up this rock and sent it rolling down."

The e man gathered round it to lift it.The Colonel watched the rock roll down as they gave it a shove.

"Hurrah"he shouted"There is a position beyon d here.

Several of the otherw got hold of another stone. It was upended and thrown backwards, and they hurled it down the ride.

"I can smell the forest fire."one of the men exclaimed.

"That is thepostion no doubt."Gertrude said."See the grass is trodden by many feet.This shows many of the enemy must have fled at the same time, but its an awkward place to follow so many despie desperate glandelinians into."

"It is indeed"one of the lieutenants agreed."They could shoot us all down in no time if we surgd across.They would have us exposed while we should be able to make out nothing."

"Yes it would be throwing ones life away by crossing that open."Gertrude said."At any rate we have got them secure and they must come out in time.But it would be madness to v go across the road and through the open to be picked off by scores by those scoundrelly Glandelinians at their ease.Now lads three score of you stand behind all the trees.Keep out of the line of fire that is going on briskly and be ready with your bayonets to repell if a force should come forth to attack.Let the rest scatter around to where the region is not so open and scour round thisplace.They may have another positi position somewhere.If so we must find it.In the first place it may be easir to attack in the second, they might either escape in the dark, or make a surprise attack on us in the dark."

Again the movement began and hotter became the enemys fire.

"Do you think it likely that the position is higher up or lower down Gertrude."Angeline Richee asked."

"There is no saying, Angeline"The open is so large.I should fancy above rather than below."

For a long time they pressed on without success, but with some loss of men than Gertrude who had gone higher up than the rest at any risk came upon a clump of low rocks. From here she hoped to see where the enemy might be situated.There was nothing suspicious about the distant positions, and she was just turning away, when there was a terrific crash a few hundred feet from her and a shower of earth fell over her.

Silently she made her way down to Angeline.

"I have found we can 't press on here, and that the battle is raging for some distance and that F General vivienia has been attacked after all.We are just hearing the echoe of the battle of Sanitary creek.At any rate I think so for I certainly missed being hit by a terrific shell.If we go quietly and under cover we may take them unawares.But we must look out for the big shells."

Angeline Richee passed the word along for the men to gather silently and Gertrude led the way up to the clump of bushes.Just then a little to the right there came a real eruption rising high with a terrific roar as of many naval guns roar thundering at one time and so much debris fell about them that it was like a hailstorm."

"Yes I can see the danger plainly enough.Now Colonel"said Angeline Richee do you move your troops cautiously through those high bushes.Carefully lads don't let the fo see you, we don't know where the next high explloive explosive shell will hit."

Cautiously Gertrude pushed the bushes asidw.She saw at once that these had been carefully trained to cover a large hole a pitfall trap.This was about three or four feet wide across, and descended at a sharp angle, form ing a sloping passage of sufficient height for any one to stand upright. Gertrude knelt down and looked in.

"This looks like som of us escaped a dangerous trap."she said."It's very steep and if any one fell in no one knows where he is likely to go.I should not say it was made by them but must have been some natural open to some horrible depths below. At any rate we will try to continue going forward besides we shallmake less noise.Keep a sharp look out everybody for pitfalls.Test the ground where ever you see bushes."

"Don't you think Gertrude, that it will be a good thing to enter that Glen from there also the moment the other troop comes up.The attention of the foe will be taken up with your sudden attack, and we may get round to the enemys rear without no being noticed."said the Colonel."

"That's a good idea Colonel, and you shall cary it out.Take two hundred men with you and make your way through as soon as you hear us engaged.But remember th t that it is quitepossible we may not be able to progress forward. Even the glen is dangerously exposed and though I mean to go through it if possible, even if it is very risky we may make some success.So don't you try to attack the rear till you are quite sure the enemy is engaged with us othwrise you will risk annihilation."

"I understand Miss Aronburg"said the C olonel as he turned to go off"Ifyou get to the enmysposition you can reckon on our assistence immediately--if not we shallmake no move...."

The colonel now took up his station at the glen with his six hundred men and listened attentively for the result.He could still hear the crackle of

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distant enemy rifles that was as frequent as pattering of rainr drops on a tin roof.

"Get ready lads to follow me to the instant you see me rise. h e said."I am sure by the sound there are more than fourteen hundre d rebels beyond, and sooner or later Gertrude may need help badly."

"suddenly he heard a shout, v followed by a volley of firearms and a roar of blasphemies,and then the discharge of firearms became fdrce.In an instant he threw himself forward his men rising and following.He had not gone more than three or four yards, when he found that the glen rose upward that it heightened,and he had to do some stiff climbing.He and his men continued on and in a few paces came upon a concealed glandelinian position.In a moment a swarm of gray clad fif figures appeared, and a number rushed tward him with loud shouts, but before they reached him two of the nearest soldiers stood by his side.

"Fire"he shouted, as he discharged his pistol, and at the same moment the soldiers beside him discharged their muskets.Then up came the rest of his men and a fdre hand to hand encounter took place,and even the colonel was fdrcely engaged.Several fire arms flashed off almost in his face.One of the soldiers nearest him fell with a sharp cry, but those who were following rushed forward.The colonel narrowly escaped having his brains dashed out by a clubbed rifle but springing back just in time he ran his enemy through before he could recover his guard.Just at this moment a big man in gray with a shock of red hair and a huge beard leveled a rifle at him.It flashed across him that his last moment had come, when a soldier behind him leaped suddenly upon the rebel soldiers back and they fell to the ground together the rifle going off in the fall, and riddiling a soldier standing next to the colonel with slugs.For two or three minutes a desperate struggle went on betweenythe colonel and all his men and those who attempted to break through them.It was bayonet against bayonet,and sturdily as the soldiers fought they had been driven backwards by the assailants.There was still just the sound of firing at the other section,and the colonel felt that Gertrudes for a had not succeeded in going forward and that he would have to bear the brunt of the struggle.

"Shoulder, to shoulder lads"He shouted."We shall have help in a minute or two."

He had emptied both his revolvers.His sword had broken short in his han d while guarding his head from a heavy blow.He himself had been almost struck to the ground,when there was a rush of men from behind, and the rest of his soldiers came up.

"Give them a volley lads"he shouted,"and then charge them with the bayonet."

The muskts ran rang out, the majority of the enemy retreated. A minute later the foremost attacke rs were out of sight but there was still a desperate struggle going on on the ground.

"Here lads"the colonel said to two of his soldiers."Se u Secure this big red headed fellow he is one of the officers."

"It was seen that the man who had sprung upon the officers back had held his arms to his sides and held them there in spite of the soldier to free himself.Two of the soldiers took off their belts and fastened them together, passed them between the h s back of the man and his prisoner and strapped the Glandelinian officers arms to his side.The man that held them then rel released his grip.

"Stand over himwith fixed bayonets, ad if he moves run him through.N ow we have won the fight here, and we got the stranger too deserted by the enemy.. Now where is Gertrude Angeline and the others.I still hear firing!"

"I don't know sir. She and Angeline Richee went forward."Seidone of the officers who had come with the reinforcemen t.We were following,when one of the other officers shouted to us to run round to help you."

"I am here Colonel"a faint voice said from the other end of the Glen"But my leg is broken i I think, and the Glandelinianswho knocked me down has knocked all the wind out of my body.Angeline too is hurt. "

The colonel hastened to the spot fro, whence the voice came, and found Gertrude Angeline lying on the ground by a tree, and Angeline Richee insensible beside her.

"What has happened!" the colonel exclaimed."Have they shot you!"

"No.The Glandelinians came upoh upon me unawares and knocked us down from behind.As I fell I shot into the middle of a camp fire and a moment later Angeline fell down on top of me.We scattered the fire all over, as you can imagine but I burned my hands and face, and I believe a part of my dress and the stocking of my right leg is on fire,- something is hurting me badly."

"Yes it is all smouldering."The colonel, exclaimed putting it out wi h his hands. "

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"Did you rout them all and get the man Jim!" Gertrude asked.

"We killed about fourty Glandelinians and routed the rest, and we have a Glandelinian officer a prisoner beside the man.It would have fared badly with us though if Lieutenant Turpo had not brought his men to our assistance.Where is your leg broken Gertrude. !"

"I'm afraid above the knee."Gertrude said.

"Here is some whiskey and water."The colonel said,handing her the bottle. "No now I will see what has happened to poor Miss Richee."and he stooped over the insensible girl.

"She has a nasty gash on her forehead, and I think her right arm is broken."he said."I will pour a little spirits between her lips, and then she had better be carried out to a more airy place."

This was done and then the Colonel shouted to one of the sergeants to bring up another twenty men.

"If you please sir"one of the sergeants said saluting,"I don't see any signs of our own officer the captian.Have you seen him!"

"No, th"the colonel said."Perhaps he is still fighting the enemy elsewhere for I still hear firing.You had better run that direction and see."

Ten minutes later the man returned;

"He's down in some ravine with some of his men sir but he says he can't get up."

"You had better run down to the raft at once and get help"The colonel said."I see she is close inshore.Bring a couple more of your men with you and a rope.If you tie that round your body you can go down and bring himand his men up."

The colonel then returned to the battlefield,where the men were still guarding the two prisoners.

"You can march them forward now."he said."Then make them sit down,and stand over them with fixed bayonets till sergeant Turner arives.Now let us look to our wounded."

An examination showed that fourty of the soldiers were dead, and nearly a hundred others badly wounded.Seventy of the Glandelinians lay on the ground. Only one was alive, the rest had fallen either from bullet or bayonet and sabre wounds.Seeing that nothing could be done here, the colonel looked round the open glen.He soon saw that just where Gertrude had fallen there was an entrance to another glen.He reloaded hispistols before he entered this but found it deserted.It contained two large cannons with cassions and appliance, two or three hundred rounds of munitions, and some thirty shrapnell shells. In addition to the number of fallen only two had been taken prisoners.

"That is satisfactory, "Gertrude said when the colonel reported to him the discovery he had made.That place where I came down is of course a long high slope.Well its been a good l early afternoon s work, two rebels captured.It was a clewerly contrived position.I wish those fellows would come though for my leg is hurting me badly and these burn s on my hads an d face is smarting horribly.Shout out to them on the slope Colonel, and tell them to send at once for Mary Glorinia our girlscout doctor.The wounded ought to be seen to as soon as possible and it is likely enough that many of them cannot be taken up over the rocks to our raft.I dread the business myself."

In a quarter of an hour Sergeant Glen arived with his own party.By this time Angeline Richee had recovered her senses, and although in great pain and almost crying from it from her broken arm was consoled upon hearing of the complete success of the expedition.The soldiers were furious on hearing that two of their best girlscout leaders were wounded,and so man of their comrades had been killed and would have fallen upon the Glandelinian officer had they not been restrained.

"Sergeant,"the colonel said"Bring four of your men into the glen with me."Now"he continued when they entered some one has been sen t to the raft with a pile of blankets and when they come fasten it across two of the mens muskets so as to make a litter.Then we must lift Gertrude Angeline carefully andput her on it and get her outside the glen. It will be a difficult business getting her through the region under this shell fire going on but we must managed it as well as we can.But first let us completely examine the scenes there may be danger of a counter attack,and we may need man to cover our retreat."

Scouting carefully they found a huge swarm of Glandelinians far away coming forward, and they were this time in countless thousands.They were some eight hundred yards distant.

"This is evidently what I expected"said the Colonel."That would account why the former foe retreated.I thought they would warn the main line.No doubt they think it is a general attack upon them and are coming to recover their lost ground."

"Well its evidant we must take Gertrude Angeline and the other wounded down to the raft under fire.It will be a tremendous business to hold ground against such overwhelming numbers but the men must do so to cover our retreat and all those who have must use machine guns.If necessary we'll have to even call upon the boys and girls to help us toowho have those guns."

Gertrude Angeline, her assistant Richee, and many if the wounded were with great difficulty taken through the narrow region, and great eruptions occassionaly tore the earth skyward dangerously near them with earsplitting booms.One officer who remained alive had recieved shell wounds in his legs he was terribly injured below the knees and the colonel had little doubt that amputation would be necessary.The other wounded many who were mortally injured lived but a short time after being brought in to the air mounting the death rate terribly.The colonel now turned to the peasant who had been secured with the Glandelinienoffi cer and who by his orders had been left unbound.He was sitting a short distance from the prisoner.

"Your name is James Maldor I presume?" he said.

"It is sir." the man replied in surprise."How did you know?"

"I heard it from Gertrude Angeline, who told me your wife came to her."

"From Minnie?"the man exclaimed."Why I thought she was in a refugee camp a hundred miles away."

"She came down to us in a rowboat on the flood like a brave woman to try n and save you from the foe."Angeline Richee said from where she lay" and gave us information that brought us to this hornets n est-but her name is not to appear, remember even from you, and no one will know how we hard of it.We promisedh e her that no harm should com to you too if we could help it, and you have escaped for being down on the ground you were out of the line of fire of our bullets.Of course at present as you joined the foe side even though being compelled we shallhave to treat you as a prisoner, as you were captured with the others, but as you did not join the enemy in the fight I think we shall manage to bring a good account of you in our Court Marshall and you will be proclaimed not guilty.But you will be tried and by us.It has to be done.Your wife is to remain at headquarters where she said she was going till she hears the news of this affair,and that you are safe, and she bade us tell you that you would when released find her in the mobolization camp near where you lived, and no w one willover dream that either she or you had any hand in this affair.Now point me out which are the officers of the enemy that brought you to camp.Was it this one."

"One of the officers who was killed wasone of them."James replied."Non e of the others are here, and Cannonia was not here but at the main line.You had better go too before it is toolate.You attacked the rear of the main line of Cannonias center and if the enemy was not fully engaged with Vivianis in a battle on the creek, you would have been annihilated for this."

"So much the better fo warning us."the colonel replied."As to this officer we will keep him prisoner on the raft.As to Cannonia there will be no difficulty in getting evidence about him.The Divisions he belonged to you say are engaged on the creek, that is the noise of battle we hear."

"Aye that is right.The other Glandelinian columns all belong about here.One of the divisions is under Cannonias brother Denis.But I think you took a big risk in doing this for the lot you are facing now is too bad for anything and you had better retreat quick before they hem you in."

"In a short time Mary Glorinia arived.she though young was an expert and had brought a case of instruments with her."

"There is nothing to do but amputate this mans legs."she said when she examined the wounded officer."His legs are just splintered.The sooner I do it the better."

The colonel and three of the men held the poor fellow while the operat ion was performed. As soon as it was over the girl doctor applied splints and bandages to Gertrudes let and lieutenant Tolsons wrist, and also to Angeline Richees arm, saying that after all they were no dislocations, but almost to that point and then said she would have the other wounded on the raft before she had tim to do anything as they must get away before the counter attack come on.

SQUARELY ACTIVITIES AT SANITARY CREEK. HEAVY LOSSES.

In the meanwhile queer things had occured. General Izner Mylatze who had concentrated on Sanitary creek, had moved up with other forces, and then re cieving a telegram to come to the village of turner and bring up a reinforcing column to that awaited him there had to go and left the command in full charge of his second chif Cannonia. Cannonia despite his evil reputation was a brave fighter, even to recklessness sometimes, ed overconfident.He had instructions not to engage the Nationals, unless he was attacked and he planned to gain the honor himself and drive general Vivienia Richee from Sanitary Creek tward Zintam woods and hem the army in.

This blunder was disasterous as will soon be known.

While vivienia was sitting in his headquarters general Conway came in.

"did you hear the kno kn news your Excellency of what is taking place early this morning.!"

"Yes "said the general I was standing by my Son Evans Richee when general Hrudge came up and said;

"There is sharp fighting near Frontier Creek and the enemy is driving the christians back.General Tennis is giving the attackers a great deal of trouble and has only fallen back for about seven miles.The other Corps is going into action and it is becoming fierce."

"It's a thousandpities that general Hindernine did not send off a mounted messenger to us the moment he became directly engaged.If he had done it we might have been there with a good strong force this moring and should be in line of battle with him by eight.I suppose he thought that Herdude would send,and Hendarine thought he had sent, and so between them nothing has been done and we only got the news at seven oclock this morning.Twoprecious hours thrown away.It is just a blunder of this sort that makes all the sure great difference between failure and success in long drawn out wars of this kind.Had any one sent us a message, we and a ll the other divisions might have all surprised the enemy already.As it is Hindernin e with only three of his army divisions has the whole of the terrible Glandelinian army under "red shadow" facing him, and is falling back fighting against such vast superior numbers---that is if "Red Shadow"threw his whole force upon him-as I suppose he did.It is enough to provoke Saint joseph."

"Wh c Which will Hindernine plan to do before it is too late general!" Beppo Evans Richee asked."

"He sends word that he shallfight just where he is, and in that caise if Cannonia throws his whole force of Scooldiers upon him and all of Mylatzes too he is no nearly certain to be destroyed, and there I sent him strick orders to fall back, as we will have to do what we can as we'll have Cannonia on us some time to day no doubt."

"And now general Conway"r think it is b ter to move into position as I hear the battle is getting louder and nearer."

With the sound of so many bugles mingled with that of the Abbiesnnian National Bands in a few minutes the company streets swarmed with soldiers for there was scarce a tent that has had not less than twenty soldiers in it.The upper windows of vivianias headquarters were thrown open and those officers up there inquired the cause of the uproar and soon the whole population of soldiers were in the company streets.There was no delay.The soldiers all of them had packed their knapsacks and were since the sound of the bugles, and the bands, and rolling of drums the whole army was forming into columns.The wildest rumors were circulated among them, mounted officers dashed to and fro b gl bugles kept on sounding the assembly and the heavy rumble of guns was heard as the artillery came up and took their appointed position .In half an hour from the sound of the first warning bugles the head of the immense columns began to move.Comparatively few of the officers in this army were married men, but there were enough soldiers who had lost their loved ones in the disasters and they were eager to take it out on the enemy.It was too a relief when the Regimental bands struck up and with a light step the troops marched away, and as they did their spirits arose, and the Abbiesnnian and Angelinian soldiers are always gay when there is a prospect of fighting---the hum of voi e voices rose along the column, talks on the disasters and their causes were exchanged, and there was vengeful feelings and black rage.The pace was not rapid, and there were frequent halts for a long column cannot march at the same pace as a single regiment, and it was eight of or o eight oclock when they halted to go into position at the creek.

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Here the men began to fall into position.suddenly there came a loud cheer from the rear of the columns.Nearer and nearer it grew, and the troops leaped to their feet, and joined in the shout, as general vivianonna with a brilliant staff rode forward on his way to the front.Al ready the booming of hundreds of guns in the distance told that the troops were engaged, and there was another ch or when the order ran along the line to fall into their positions.

Cannonia had indeed carried out his foolish overconfident dela plans at the break of day.General Bonrderd who commanded the divisions of fierce Turmerannians had commenced hostilities,, as soon as it was daylight by attack ing the christians in front of him, and general Grander who had ridden up directly the action was over, brought on the Mangaboo troops from his right and joining general Bornhardar drove back the christians to within a mile of the creek, and drove them across the peat bogs with heavy losses.

General Vivianis reached Turners creek soon after the news of the battle began and finding there was no immediate danger there, ga lloped away to communicate with general Evans. He found that under instructions the latter had gathered three of his corps and occupied a chain of high forested hills extended for two miles.The creek wound in front of it.General vivianis was of the opinion that the position was a good one.Had the christian general been able to concentrate his christian forces on time he would have intended to aid Hindernine by taking the offensive but the unfortunate delay that had taken place in sn sending the news of the advance of the enemy under the "Red Shadow" rendered it now nigh next to impossible that he should do so,and therefore he would have to be on the defense, and he rode back to arrange all the positions at Sanitary Creek for its defense against the fierce Glandelinian force that was evidently moving forward to attack.

It seemed will for the enemy that this Napoleon of the christians was not in a propoerposition for defense at day break.

His troops though very strong in numbers instead of being concentrated the night before at the otherposition, were through the causes of the forest fires, the floods and other perils scattered over a considerable extent of country either fighting fires, or the flood, and many of them were still beyond even the flooded Richese farms.Marshall Himbers who had been by Vivisnd ap ointed to the comp command of the Nith Corps under Hansonia johnston had intended to push through Kormman town and march straight tward Sanitary Creek but he had been unsuccessfully oposed fiercely the day before, and had been with great difficulty been able to arive the evening before, and was ignornat o ignorant of the positions of the various divisions under his command.Therefore it had not been untill two oclock the day before in the afternoon that even Hansonia had advanced with about six million men, and was then attacked by sixty million of the enemy at Lieghton town while at about the same hour the columns under Francis Turmer of the enemy advanced from Francisco A Creek against Hansonias left. To Cannonia it seemed that vivianias delay was going to be fatal to him and that he would surprise Mylstze by sweeping the "christian doge"from the region.But he too blundered.Had the battle began generally the moment he started it Cannonia would have brushed aside the defenders od the turner Creek, and would have been at Cove Mo Ten by the time the other christian forces came up.The whole christian army then would have been severely beaten by noon, and before nightfall their retreat as hen1anned it would have been converted into a total rout, and then on the following day the whole of Cannonias army would have been in aposition to fall upon the only christian armies that vivienia could by that time have pushed forward into position to oppose him, and would probably have been in possession of the whole territory by night and won a splendid victory.Thus while the delay in sending news to general vivianis prevented the christian armies from combining at once against the foe, the overconfidence of Cannonia brought the disaster to the Glandelinia side. There was for the christian side too the less an excuse for delay in as much as the commanders had themselves chosen the time for the general fighting, and for Cannonia he should not have advanced at all untill Mylstze and Huebaum Mic-Whirther has their whole forces well up and ready for action, and the whole new armies would have been gathered into position by night fall ready to give battle at the first dawn of day.Overconfidence is always disaster ous as cannonia soon found out. Now even this morning, after Vivianis send aid to Hansonia Cannonia fighting as he did against such vastly superior forces concentrating in a dreadful bloody horror against him, Cannonias's only one hope of success or even safty now lay in crushing the dangerous Winkie Abysinkilians before the arival of the Domdobians---who as he well knew were scattered over a large extent of ccuntry-----could come up---and his failure

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to do this cost him a dreadful and most disgraceful defeat.The artillery fire of great guns shaking the ground for many miles like an earthquake increased in front b f before the column continued its advance for Mount St Ann.General Scanlon Jensin who had paused in his advance when he saw how strong was the Abysainkilian force in his front on Little Mic-Hollester Hill recoiled before a terrific christian artillery fire from the right, and general Turner was not yet ready to attack, which made Cannonia impatient.The christian line then rushed to the assault itself, and therefore fromeight to ten there was a dreadful line of operations, fields for miles as far as you could see was white with smoky shell eruptions, great explosions ble stad the air, fierce onslaughts surged across the fields and through the woods in a raging inferno of blood curdling horror and the ardour of the troops flagged the bravery of the enemy and they finally recoiled to the rear in some confusion leaving immense droves of their dead and wounded behind them in that one hour. Cannonia rea realized he was having a most anxious time while the Glandelinian columns were pressing forward to his assistance.As the hous went by he saw the christ ian forces in front of him accumulating like an immense long wave while he thought that their supports might be miles away.Nevertheless he pepared to defend himself to the last.He had with him over sixty million troops all told one thousand sixteen cannon, while general Vivianis had gathered nearly eighty seven million men and three thousand guns to counter attack him on a long wide front,and Cannonia too should have had with him general Prices Corps of Twentymillion, but these had gone off with Mylstze.Thus twenty million men were gone while Cannonia now realized that the presence of Beppo Evans, Mylstze, and Huebaum Mic-Whirther at this crisis would have been invaluable.Even Hansonia had reachd the field with a large force.And soon after nine oclock General Cantons corps which headed the Abbiesnnian column heard many cannon broadsides fired in a dreadful unceasing roar, and in another hour a world war seemed to have broken out in that one spot.The battle evidently had begun to grow worse, and the weary Glandelinian soldiers who had already marched over thirty miles, straightened themselvew up, the puso qudkened,and the divisions pressed eagerly forward to repoll the now attacking christians.

A few minutes later Cannonia was startled by a more heavier and continuous roar of many cannons.Francis Hansonia was attacking the Mic-Hollestinians with ll all his force.The talking and laughing among even christian soldiers now ceased because they were awed by that roar of gunfire, the walls of eruptions over the scene, and the younger ones glanced e in each others faces to see whether the others fet felt the same vague feeling of discomfort they themselves experienced, and yet terrible indeed as the con flict in front was growing, each man lon gec to take his part in it.

The officers of all rank ordered their men to step out briskly, and these orders were given in cheerful and confident voices and the men themselves, with their fingers tightened on their long rifles and their eyes now looking intently forward as if they could periece the distance and realized the scene now taking place pressed on dogedly and determinedly.The courier after another rode up to general vivianis who was marching at the head of the column telling him of the result and that the Glandelinians was being driven back step by step.Indeed the Glandelinians were already doing their best.The Mangaboo and Scoodlier troops of the enemy were fighting with unusual bravery and desper ation, and held the woods near Sanitary Creek for some time before they fell back to the wooded plateaus.Here they made a desperate and stout stand once more fighting as fdrcely as was their wont, but they were at length being driven out by overwhelming numbers which moved on irrestibly and they were beginning to , lose heart and in a few minutes more, their slow retreat would have turned into a rout if they had not seen the long straight lin e coming behind to their assistance.The battle looked like a hundred Dresdens and Waterlcos in one at this long exte s extensive point.However the glad news that aid was coming ran quickly through the wood by enemy wireless, and the Mangaboos met the christians with fresh courage.General Oques divisions consis i consisting of the 18th and the 19th Corps of the Zimmermannian divisions , the former under general Cantler, and the other under Clans moved to their support.With them were the Fourteenth Corps of Mungaboos with two batteries of machine gun batteri s.The excitement of the troops increased as they went into the fray on the right and a loud cheer ran along the long gray line as they neared the hard pressed Mangaboos, and they tok theirplace by their side.The aspect of the fight for a time seemed to be gradually changing now, but the christian fire was worse.However the Abbiesnnians who had been advancing with shouts of victory were at once hurled back, and the defenders were a few minutes later strengthened by the arival of the greater section of general Quincy Glons Corps.In point of numbers the combatents were now nearly equal as the christian had now I',) I8,000,000 engaged, and many hun dreds of guns on the fields.Of these however but eight million were Abbiesnnian.

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General Cranmer coming to the scene at once sent forward the first Battalion of the First, and these cleared a little wood in the front of Sanitary Creek but it couldn't hold the gained position and was compelled to flee. Hunsonia at other points was advancing in unusually great force. His front was covered with a double hedge grow and other bushes which gave great shelter to his long lines of machine gunners, and advancing skirmish lines while his long chains of batteries were so placed on long stretches of rising ground in the rear of his position as to sweep the whole country over which his columns were to advance so he could cover the assault. Cannonia at once saw that his Christian enemy were also moving in heavy column behind the other wood to the North Bend of the creek, and he directed his artillery officers to withdraw the guns that were too far advanced and to push forward the Omarian troops to oppose the advance, at the same time he sent forward the 29th Corps to their assistence. Their arival however too late, for the Abbiesannians swept the Glandelinians of before them and advanced steadily, while their artillery from the high ground up opened a terrific cannonade upon the Glandelinian divisions, tearing surge after surge into pieces. One of the Omarian divisions now joined the Mangaboos but in spite of this reinforcement the latter were driven from the woods which they had occupied when the christians first came up. The Glandelinian troops suffered heavily from the dangerous artillery fire to which their own guns could make no effectual reply. "Pretty hot this situation. "Thought Cannonia to himself."

"It was indeed trying for all his youngest Glandelinian soldiers under such fire. The christians too to make it worse had got the range very good and every moment gaps were made in the line as the round grape shot and shells and canister and machine guns plowed through them. The officers walked backwards and forwards in front of their men with orders and pleade oleads to stand steady but it could not be, the Abbiesannians advanced too furiously. "It will be our turn presently to advance lads" said general Bepo Evans of the christian aide. "We will turn the tables on the enemy by and by never fear. There was not very long to wait. Clouds of Concentinian skirmishers were seen advancing through the long line of hedge and briar grows ed and stealing behind the thickets and the woods that skirted the roads, and a moment later the orders came for the light companies and heavy Brigades of all the Regiments of the Concentinian divisions to advance.

"Forward lads." was the order at every section by wireless. The line of advance was ten miles. "It's our turn now. Keep cool and don't a waste your ammunition. With a cheer the troops followed their leaders. Every hedge bank, and tree that could afford shelter was seized upon, and a sharp crackling fire at once replied to that of the enemy skirmishers and if there had been no wind the musketry smoke would have become a dense fog. The troops of the christians were then armed with far better weapons than those in use by the enemy and the enemy losses was awful. To make it worse, a heavy column of troops was seen advancing from a small rise held by the Abyssinkilians and this as it approached the part of the line held by the Domdobians, broke up into several columns formed suddenly in a long line, and with frightful yells ry rushed for the enemy like a storm wave. The Glandelinians would not dare resist this wave, they were falling back panic stricken, and Cannonia sent the Dukes divisions to meet the christian attackers half way. The Omarian Curde division were called in, while the Turmora annian was held in reserve, general An Cannonia placed himself in front of the line, and it rallied, to meet the heavy christian columns. But it proved of no use. Once again as in many a stricken field, the christians proved the best. Overlapping the Glandelinian columns opposed to it pouring scathing mile long volleys upon each flank, and then charging on the aka shaken masses with the bayonet, the christian troops hurled themselves upon the foe at every point driving them back beyond their line of position, followed them up the face of the opposite hill, and captured that and send the defenders flying.

On the right however the christians were suffering heavily from the cannonade of the foe and were only only prevented from breaking by the coolness of general Herdrude. General Herdrude rode backwards and forwards in front of them saying the Rosary, and chatting cheerfully with his many officers seemingly unconscious of the storm of Glandelinian fire, and even the most nervious of his young troops felt indeed great shame to show signs of wwaveri wavering when their commanders set such an example to them. Fourty guns which had been sent him came up and opened fire with high explosive shells, and this so completely overmatched the enemy artillery that in five minutes the batteries were blown up and the territory devastated.

CHAPTER TWENTY EIGHT.

THE OVERWHELMING OF GENERAL [illegible]'S LOYAL CHRISTIAN ARMY BY THE WATERS OF THE ALLENBY DAM)ONE OF THE MOST DISASTEROUS AS WELL AS MOST REGULAR [illegible] DURING THE WAR CAUSED BY THE EARLY FLOODING A [illegible] GAP IN THE DAM. THE REAL NUMBER OF DEATHS OF CHRISTIAN ARMY ALONE ABOUT OR OVER 1,000,000. DESTRUCTION OF FORTIFIED SOLDIERS UNDER WORKS BY AERIAL TORPEDOES. ABOUT ONLY TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND SOLDIERS FOUND.

In A IN AUGUST 1913/

S Creek

DURING the bloody battle of Sanitary on the month of August, see. date of battle the enemy being hard pressed by general Turcis Loras big christian forces which consisted the right wing of general Hobson living army blew the stones or walls of the center of the big Allenby Dam which confined the waters of Kirby Lake clear up into the air by three hundred pounds of heavy explosives and on account of this the dam broke instantly all of its walls collasping and within few hours or so the most tremendous fo flood of the year rushed feircely down among the valley and fields devasted the christian army, with the loss of a million lives in drowned, and marooning the rest, and also flooded many towns and cities nd within a few hours or more since the flood started inthese towns and villiages themselves nearly twenty three thousand four hundred men women and children also perished, although any others said the loss of life was greater than that, many of those were lying dead in the wreckage of their homes or in the fury of the waters, scores of millions of dollars worth of property were instantly destroyed and more than twenty five million people baggared and destitue and all because to check the successful advance of a christian army the Glandelinian engineers belonging to a portion of general Leo castellioes command destroyed the walls of the big reservior with high powdered explosives. Therefore the Glandelinian army was alone to be blamed for thedreadful disaster.

Countless numbers of buisness houses of the towns and villiages, scores of thousands of residences and other buildings were destroyed, a whole christian camp extending sixteen miles filled with wounded soldiers were swept away with the wounded never found, and less than a score of structure composing of the town of Delight's function itself and also of the outer limits of „ivian wickey were also destroyed, complete paralysis followed within this section of the christian line,, thousands of people were crazed by their sufferings, and were said to never have regained their reason, Glandelinian ghouls and valdens swarmed to the places by the thousands heavily armed and looted the bodies of the dead and evenwell and injuredand all the christian troops sent to the places to stop all this could not do a thing with these desperate ghouls who were fiercer than the most ferocious gorilla or tiger, and for two weeks no one could approach the vinicity of the flood so that nothing could be done to care for the millions of impoverished survivors untill they could get upon their feet again, and though relief was being sent from everywhere in the shape of hundreds of trans of provisions and thousands of carloads of supplies of all sorts the Glandelinian scouting parties foraging allaround seized upon all provisions burned the trains, blew up all railroad tracks running tward the flood, and sent large parties to look out for relief parties and to prevent all relief from reaching the stricken districts untill the christians would withdraw their armies from this section of the region of De Delight's function.

Despite all this terror scours of regiments of the boldest of the christian armies and soldiers and generals and even private citizens of the other towns and villiages plucked up courage and went to workwitha will when the apathy succes succeeding the horror worked off and all the efforts were being made under continuous fire of Glandelinian artillery day after day which even dominated the flooded districts for miles and all the country far outside of the flooded area.

The lake which held in the res reservor which was formed of the dam was said to be tenmiles in wide width and seventeenmiles in length and in some places more than five hundred feet deep located in some high foot hills three hundred feet above the leven of the recent battle field of Delight's function its waters having been held within bounds by a huge rock dam nearly three thousand five hundred feet long, nithy feet thick and one thousand two hundred feet in height the top having a breadth of over sixty five feet. Nothing sort of a terrific convulsion of nature or a terrific explosioncould break this dam. It had once been a gigantic feeder and a reservior for the people of „ivian Wickey. Before

the outbreak of the war it had been widened and deepended and was said to have been recently the main property of Mr Gannon of Atlanta in. During the very battle of arrocinio it had appeared to be a terrible menance to the christian armies fighting fighting in its locality as especially when it was held by portion of the enemy line but for a time officers of general Avians army did not think the enemy soldiers would be "Mean" enough to burst such a dam on purpose when they knew what a horrible flood and disaster it would make formost the army alone but for many millions of innocent people also. Mr Gannon bought the lake and Dam from Emperor Avians eldest Son Prince Alfie vivian two years before the war brokeout. It had been so powerfully made that it was said that nothing but some explosion or an earthquake could affect the proctecting dam. During the battle of Arrocino general Lorns christian army had been in a position and a situation that should the enemy blow a gap in the dam the situation would be one that would render the whole army peculiarly liable to terrible loss of life in the event of such a disaster as that already occured. His army was a portion of general Hansons main army and the awful flood caused by the sudden ourp outpouring of the contents of the reservior together with the torrents of grape and shell fire that had tore the christian armies to pieces and increased the disaster to triple its terrible results was supposed to be the cause of the enemy blowing it up with high explosive shells secretly placed under an aperture beside the wall, and which flood caused the sudden submersion of the country all around for a hundred miles and the drowning of so many christian soldiers, well or wounded and also of so many citis citizens of scores of towns and villages and a portion of Delight's junction City. The water piled up everything in the most overwhelming masses carrying before it every obstruction its in in its onward rush upon the whole country side.

General Marcins Lorens christian army the main sufferer of the disaster (Hansons main army having not beentouched) was opposing the enemy attackers and driving them back a mile across the main line of the Vic-Hollester and Pandora railroad three hundred and seventy six miles from Calverine City. The centre of this devastated christian army was under general Caldwell and his troops of corps and battalions and artillery as well as cavarly filledthe fields from the region of sunbeam Creek to the town of Arcico Arrocinio. Through this region flows the beautiful Sunbeam x creek which during the dry periods can be crossed readily in many places by foot but which floods the landscapr landscape for several miles in the spring and rainy seasons.

General Rossmers troops was on the right. West of the officers of this army had been constantly warned of the impending flood as early as two oclock in the afternoon by spies and scouting parties, who had seen the efforts of the enemy to destroy the dam but not a person of the army knew that the dam had given way untill the flood engulfed half of the army, swept the whole christian camp of a million tents and barracks away and tore the timbers apart of the big wooden fortifications. Escape from the torrent was impossible as it came too suddenly. General Avivian sent cavarly in all directions, and also supply trains that were empty and did all he could to rescue as many people as possible but the enemy did all they couldde to prevent it. Few lives could be saved and few bodies were ever recovered. Four miles or more below this portion of the battlefield lay the small villiage of Mildred Greenburg where the big Norma gun Riverx flows past and this town contained about twenty thousand inhabatants. It was saved from total destruction by the fact thatthe immense Norma gun parcially dry at that time recieved half of the amount of the flood waters untill it itself became a raging torrent and there fore the flood only made enough water in the streets of the city to enable the people to go boating or wade through it from one side to theother. Ten miles further to the east, on the same river which happened to run parallel with the Vic-Hollester and Pandora Railroad was the town or city of Wottrube. It has eight hundred thousand inhabatants and most of the hoi houses were on a flat and close to the big river. The river saved this town from utter ruin but many of the houses were totally destroyed, the streets were flooded to the depth of thirty feet in some places and eight thousand people perished.

Six miles southeastward was the town of St Marie and here because of the big river being in a deeper bed there was a possibility of the spreading of the immense flood flood and thebreaking of its flood but the town was parcially devastated and two thousand people swept away to no one knows where as their bodies were never recovered.

Sebastopolis with a population of two million people it being a large city near the river of Lorna Doone Bad Axe Run lay a mile west of Wottrube also in a big flat and two miles further down were the city of Latrave and its sister cities, Blocklin and Hallowville with a total population of about four million. These cities were also flooded but no excep tional damage was done except to basements and other points. The great damage to general Lorn's army was due to the sudden spreading of the flood as it rushed acrosthe country side like the tidalwave of a sea storm. The wave spread against the stream of Gumbo and passed over toward Delight's junction flooded all its streets to a depth of four feet, and to a depth of twenty feet in someplaces causing incapable destruction and frightful loss of life among its inhabatants and reached a portion of the hos besieging christian armies there devastating miles of army barracks and laying breastworks and other trenches low and sweeping to destruction millions of tents. It was related that a big lumber boom had been formed at oneportion of the Norma Run river to be used as a sort of block ak blockade against any craft and this had been broken also by the flood and the rush of the tidal wave coming down stream to a height of twenty feet and coming in contact with the other spreading wave increased to the extent of the distan disaster in this section and the company streets were soon as swashed with logs all hurled against the army buildings of the besieging cantonments. In general Mr Kindermines cantoments and works and other positions near Delight's junction as well as in Evans nearest the river the opinion was expressed hotly that so many lives would not have been lost had the officers not believed from their experiences with other vile tricks of the enemy that there was positively nodanger beyondthe filling of cellars or the over flows of the shores of the river should the enemy burst a dam or a levee by explosion or other engineering work. After rushing across the country side at the speed of twenty miles an hour at its worst from the south fork of the region the pressure of the water was so great that it forced its way over the very river like the sweep of a wall not only injuring Evans camps and laying low many barracks destroying all army goods, and killing thousands of horses, but swept up all the way to general Robert vivians cantonments and earthworks laying every thing low and causing immense loss of life.

By the terrible flood communication by rail, and wire and other means was completely cut ofv off.

The exact number of victims of this dreadful disaster was never known as the flood swept many into the river and only a few bodies were found beyond Norma's Bridge which in all probability were carried to that place from Arrocinio and its suburbs which town was completely wipedout.

The terrible holocast of the flood being at its worst when it struck general Lorns christian army caused the most terrible loss of life. The loss of property throughout the region of flood was said to be near nearly $60,000,000.

Two days after the disaster there came to general Avivian a soldier who was a scout belonging to general Burgars Gemini. His name he was not said to give and he was a scouting guard. By almost super human efforts he succeeded in working his way through battle scared forests and across roaring floods in order to ascertain for himself the terrible results of the deluge which he saw start from the dam after the enemy made the explosions. He had repeatedly he declared called the attention of the various christian generals to the various attempts of enemy engineers who were crushing the dam with explosives but in no effort could prevent the enemy plans and dreadful loss of life occured among the soldiers in their desperate and almost super human efforts to prevent the enemy soldiers from blowing up the dam.

For three minutes previous to the final outburst the soldierscout said the enemy succeeded after repulsing a furious charge in blowing the first gap in the wall of the dam and then he had seen the water of the lake force itself through the hole of the masonry th so that the front of the dam resembled some large watering pot. The force of the water was so great a after the second blast of explosives that one of these jets squirted fully eight hundred feet horizontally from the stone wall. At this time too the christians had again fought crazily, most insanely to prevent what was to be a terrible disaster but in vain.

It was a little later said another man that he had been formed his troops for a charge against a portion of the enemy force near the dam when he heard another explosion and noticed that the surface of the big lake suddenly appeared to be lowering. He doubted his eyes and when the charge was made and he and his troops had reached the enemy war works he found his suspicions were well founded. For there he saw

the waters of the lake welling out from beneath the big gaps made in the masonry by the explosions.Absolutely helpless they were compelled to fall back before the enemy counter charge and see the sudden development of what was to be probablyone of the most disasterous floods ever seen in that country.According to this generals reckoning it was two thirty when the last explosion tore a gapthirty feet in the wall though through which the water poured as though forced by machine ichinery of the ost stupendous owers.At the last big explosions the toppling masonry fe l in completely the remainder of the wall hurling into the air as if there had been an eruption and the great storage lake had in less than two ho rs time formed and thundered over a hundred miles of country side devastating towns and cities.The officer and his men were so horrified and awe struck at the terrible catastrophe caused by the wicked rebels that they fought desperately to be avenged and slew all they could find giving no qu quarter.The officer said that had the portion of the christian army been strongly supported in its assault upon the enemy by the dam and the assault been victorious the disaster would not have occured. Had a heavy mass of artillery only be been massed upon the enemy positions near the dam the probabilities were that no lives would have been lost by flood.To have saved the da m from ben being blown asunder by the enemy engineers would not have taken fifty pieces of artillery.
General Vargar said of the dam and the disaster during the raging flood, ''Probably no attempt whatever of known and good standing could possibly have m been made successfully in saving the dam once the first explosion had occured.And no effort of the troops could have ousted the enemy out of his position in that location afte r the first charge had been repulsed .Ignorance or carelessness is shown in the outcome of the disaster and to have prevented the calamity the enemy lines should have been shelled by the main line cannon.Had the enemy only succeeded in making the breaks at the two ends of thr dam the outpouring of the waters probably would have been gradual and little or no harm could have resulted and probably the enemy would have been hurled back just the same.And had the dam been blown asunder at once at the ends when the water began running over or through the centralgap the suddeness of the breakeight surely have been checked the walls crumbling away at lea st more slowly and gradually and possibly prolonged so that little harm could have been done''.
At the highest fury of the flood all was over in two hours time.The flood roaring like a tidal wave rushed over and spread over the whole country side when released so suddenly from its prison, swept whole forests of trees, seas of houses, and human beings before it, depositing vast seas of debris all over the territory, wrecking scores of big bridges, forming impassable barriers near Norma Bridge, and roaring on to wreck fresh h vengeance elsewhere.
One of the most terrible sights was the effects of the flooded river not far or near Norma's Bridge. The Norma River was chocked with debris of all sorts.Here were seen floating the tim bers of houses, and the mangled corpses of soldiers either drowned outright from the devastated army of drowned while lying wounded on the battlefield.The story of this flood and allits horrors cannot be told but for the story will become ho his o historic.No one could look at it without a shock to his nerves. So tangled and unyeilding became the masses of wreckage wedged also against the Norma's Bridge that not even high explosives had little effect upon it.Many injured persons mostly soldiers and also non combatants w re wedged in this wreckage and to rescue those wedged in the mass that the ruthless flood made ir or left whole was sucide as the enemy to prevent it put in a hot fire at every point even opening fire upon the very people who were caught in the wreckage.
From the christian side of the great Norma's Bridge the view was but a prelude to the views which were to follow.Looking across the river the first object the eye would catch was the enemy soldier s teeming the shore firing with rifle and cannon to prevent any work of rescue possible.Still further on down the river and near the center of the Bend were the rebel positions and earthwork.Not a vestige of these could be a pproached by rescuers.
When the enemy had been defending his works near the dam this dam on a count of the enemy being in possession had beena sorce of uneasiness and early in the morning some of the christian generals had been warned that the enemy might pu p purposely wreck the dam and that they better withdraw their amies to high ground or not engage the foe here at all. However these generals had heard the same warnings once too often in some other battles near the levees of dangerous rivers however to be fully im r impressed and many jeered at their infomants. All of those that

jeered were before night fall scattered all o er the country side could

in death, or met their fate in the piles of wreckage of all description wedged together near the Norma Bridge when the ene y fired upon the wreckage with shell grape, musketry and canister and also fire bombs. All the upper portions of the wreckage was set afire by thes ebombs and many of the unfortunate soldiers and even non combatants die cumbered themselves in an effort to escape the blazing wreckage or the enemy cruel merciless fire.Only a fes few of the officers had heeded the warning and had formed their troops on higher positions on higher ground where they had been safe but witnessed with horror the disasterous floof.Far from the flood the disaster was affected.Every little creek and stream was swollen by the waters rivers became seas and seas of floods were turned into oceans.The Sunbeam Creek with a bed too narrow to hold its greatly increased body of water from the flood over flowed its banks and flooded miles of country far from the scene of the main flood.A Es elsewhere there had been worst to come and the awful results were so appalling that there lived not a human b eing or a fighting soldier who had been li ely to realize them.
At seven oclock in t the evening the resistless flood tore away the huge lumber boom made to check the move ents of ene y crae craft up and down that portion of the Norma River.This was the real beginning of the worst of the disaster.The ernomous mass of logs countless millions of them were hurled down upon the doomed christian cantonment.The lines of two water courses of Sunbeam Creek near the town of Delight's Junction were by this time obliterated by the raging flood and in this region was a raging sea.The great seas of thundering logs leveled everything before them crushing allthe frame barracks like egg shells, and going on unchecked untill the long Bridge across the Norma River was reached which also crossed the Sunbeam Creek. Had the waters allowed the logs to remain or stick at this bridge the christian camps might have been spared all of its own horror also.within the camps there were already dead and dying, and cities of tents had been swept away but the dead could only be counted by scores and not yet by thousands.If the logs would have been wedged against the bridge it would have for ed an impenetrable barrier which would have forced the flood to go to some other course or checked it in that direction at least.The soldiers of Grantheart's camp moved to the second and upper floors of their barracks and hoped that the awful flood might subside.There seemed no longer any chance to get away and had all the soldiers known what was in store for them while under fire too all this time from the enemy cannon the contemplation of the fate of scores of thousands would have been enough to make them stark mad.Only half anhour had elasped from the timer of the breaking of the huge lumber boom when the full force of the flood waters rushed upon the camps.The towering w all of water swooped down upon Granthearts camps with a force that carried logs and everything else before it.Had the logs as I said before been stayed in windrows by the bridge a good portion of these camps might have been saved.The ramparts of logs however were unable to check the flood wave and half of the barracks of both Granthearts and general ..vians cantonments a were lifted from their foundations and hurled down with the flood or crushed to fragments with the drowning of thousands of m re soldiers.Again and again did the logsbeoom e jammed at someplaces but again the flood hurled them forward and each wave carried all before it and destroyed more barracks and swept w hole camps of trees and tents away.The bridge though in the full pressure of the flood stood firm but the railway embankment gave way and some fifty hundred of the bodies were carried down in the break on pressed the flood and general Hanson ..vians headquarters in a moment was laid low.Here had gathered a number of officers and soldiers who f lt felt they were were out of reach of the flood and almost before they realized their peril they were swept away into the seething torrent.It was soon night the fury of the flood began to subside and darkness and the enemys merciless fire added to the terror of the awful situation.The enemy sent over upon the floating wreckage where persons were wedged fire bombs and liquid flames to make the calamity a ll the more appalling.Mountains of wreckage was piled up in windrows near and on all parts of the shore near Norma Bridge.Just how many people people men and soldiers were imprisoned in all that wreckage may never be known but the number in full total was estimated at between one hundred and two hundred thousand.At some points the wedge wedgedness the shore was piles to the height of sixty feet and the enemy bombarded it with fire bombs a d and shells and the scene that was then witnessed was beyond description.Shrieks prayers, pleads, from

the unhappy beings imprisoned in the wreckage and under fire from the ruthless enemy planned the air but little or nothing could be done done by the christian soldiers themselves as the enemy played in such a fire in all portions of the flood area near their lines as to make rescue work absolutely impossible.Christian cannon thundered in salvoes and whole lines of christian infantry opened fire and kept this up for days but nothing could be done to frustrate the fury of the ruthless foe.Not only not only thousands of soldiers but men women and even little children by the countless thousands were held down by the wreckage of thier houses, and watched with indescribable agony the fire bombs set the wreckage ablaze, or saw their comrades shot down by hundreds by the enemy fire and many were slowly roasted to death, and the christian soldiers on the shore side could not nothing as yet to aid the until general Vivian could bring up his worst artillery and hammer the enemy back from that portion of the shore.

Thousands who had been held fast in the wreck by an arm or a leg with the purpose to escape or be mercifully saved from the enemy fire begged piteously that their imprisoned limbs be cut off.Many escaped from the wreckage with mangledlimbs and some man cut off his leg that he might get away but was shot in the head by an enemy sniper.Those who longed to go to the aid wereve like demons to drive the enemy from the shore with the purpose to save the unfir unfortunates from the flames and the enemy rifle and artillery fire but thousands were killed or burned to death.

Meanwhile the city of arecoinc had been literally wiped from the face of the earth, Allenby city was swept away and its inhabitants never found and Cruser crough was a thing of the past.The little villiage of Norman with a population ofonehundred had nothing left of it but floating timbers, Algo town was gone and Z agamgustopolis The ninth wrecked.Thousands of people were drowned in their homes, countless hundreds were swept away in their dwellings and never recovered and many others met death in the debris th t the thatwns madly whirled about on the surface of the flood, thousands upon thousands were killed or burned by the w enemy, and hundreds who sought safty on floating drift wood, or tried to gain somepoint of safty were killed by enemy sharpshooters and by shellexplosions or overwhelmed by the flood or washed to death against obstructions or slain as they tried to climb upon some roof of a floating house.Thousands of instances of fatal heroism and self sacrifisewere never excelled t during this time perhaps not even equalled on the bloodiest battlefield yet.Men rather than save the selves alone died nobly with their families, and mothers willingly gave up their lives rather than abandon their children.

During the flood one of those who did take the chance of g do ing some rescue work even while under heavy fire saw an old woman floating down the Sunbeam creek on an old piece of wood with agonized face and streaming hair.Despite the danger of being hit by grape and canister, or by the enemy bullets this dare devil christian soldier plunged into the wild torrent and brought the poor old lady ashore.Scarcely had he done so when to his surprise the upper story of some large wooden house floated by, one which was a woman a man and three children two girls and one boy.The soldier plunged in again and while breaking through the tin roof of the house was the target of the enemy fire which was fully directed at him and though a bullet cut an artery in his wrist and a shell fragment tore his leg open he succeeded in saving both the father and mother and the three children. Another soldier at hazardous risks saved sixteen lives not far from the north end of the street near the bend.Qu at the Junction of two streams near Delight's Junction two men, three wo women and fourteen children were seen floating down on a raft, all lying low as possible to escape the effects of the fire from the enemy on the op posite shore.The m mass of debris was then hit by a shell which in ex exploding tore the mass of drift apart and d by desperate efforts the men and women succeeded in getting the children on to a floating tree of immense size.Just then the tree washed near the christian side of the shore and a rope was thrown out by a soldier.It fell upon the mans shoulders but the rope was cut in two by a bullet and a moment later the raft and the tree was swept by a hail of canister and all the poor unfortunates were carried to their deaths.

Colone l Henry Hopwoode n of Aberdeener Street porothy Gale City distinguished himself by his own per leas bravery while rescueing persons while under fire.He was a gen erly officer of general Concentinian Arenburgs Concentinian soldiery.As his party of rescuers passed a given point while under shell fire he saw the water full of struggling persons, soldiers, and men women and children all floating in contrast to the christian side

of the river shore. ost of the soldiers at his orders though exposed to the enemy fire jumped into the water and in two trips brought in all the people.The Colonel rescued four persons and was wounded twice by enemy bullets.The greatest excitement prevailed at thimplace and despite all the efforts of the enemy to prevent them large portion of Arcelinian and soldiers were all the time endeavoring to save the poor unfortunates that were either being hurled to eternity on the rushing torrent or killed by enemy shell fire and th canist canister and bullets.The tidal wave of floods struck Delight's Junction just after dark fell and in fifteen minutes the little beautiful Sunbeam Creek,, rose from sixty to one hundred feet and the roaring waters spread out all over the country like an immense sea.Soon houses began floating down by hundreds and clinging to the debris were many men women and children under fire from rebel cannon and musketery, and all were shrieking for aid and lying low to prevent themselves from being hit.A large number of christian soldiers at once gathered on the shore and near the christian side of the bridges and while theyattempted the work of rescue others came up to return the fire of the enemy as hotly as possible while they were rein forced by a number of machine gun batteries which r k ranked the enemy snipers on theopposite side of theriver.The rescuers brought a number of ropes andthese were thrown into the roaring boiling waters many persons drifted by in the desperate efforts to save as many poor beings as possible. In this attempt twenty christian soldiers were killed by enemy fire and fourty wounded.For half an hour or more al efforts were fruitless until/ at last when the rescuers were about giving up all hope a little boy astride a shingle roof managed to catch hold of one of the ropes.He caught it under his right arm and was thrown violently against a floating tree but managed to keep hold and though enemy rifles popped at him and his rescuers he was successfully pulled on to the Roman Bridge amid the cheers of all the soldiers and on lookers.The boys name was Andrew San Spanollia and his rescuer was a non combatant from Delight's Junction named Hendro Pedro.The lad was taken to general Hansons upper cantonments not touched by the flood and cared for in one of the barracks.The little boy was about eight years old and was wounded in the lef leg and his arm by a bullet and on his left side had a slight shell wound.His story of the frightful flood calamity was as follows;

"With my father I was spending the day at my Uncles house near Arecoinio city.In the house at the time were many refugees who had fled from the city during the outbreak of the battle there.Shortly after three oclock there was a loud noise unlike the sound of battle.It was of roaring water and mingled with the screams of people.We lookedout the door and were horrified to see many persons running.My father and o en uncle told us not to mind as the waters were the bursting of a small levee of the Roman Gun River and would not rise further.But soon we saw houses by by the h ndreds being swept away and then we ran to the floor above. The house was four stories and we were at last forced to thetop one.Added to the noise of the flood we could still hear the other section of the battle and wondered what thebattle and flood a l lement coming at the same time.In my fright I jumped on a bed it being an old fashionedone with heavy wooden posts.Gradually it was liftedup, the air in the roo was growing close close and I could feel some sort of a motion that told me the house a big wooden one was literally floating.Still the bed kept rising and pressed the ceiling.At l st the post pushed the plaster and it yeilded a section of the roof finally giving way.Then suddenly I found myself on the roof and was being carried down stream.Beyond on the opposite shore I saw long lines of men in light blue or gray un f uniforms popping at every one who were floating in the water and I realized the darned rebel soldiers meant to kill us even while we were so helpless in the flood they made themselves.After a little the roof was torn apart by some solid shot and the shock almost threw me off and into the water.I was terrib terribly afraid for I was in two dangers, one of being drowned, and the other of being hit by the glandelinian rifles but soon another house with a sin single roof floated by and I managed to crawl up on it on th the side facing the christian shore of the river and floated down untill I nearly dead with fright as shells frequently exploded close to the roof when I was saved though many of my rescuers were hit in the attempt and I was hurt three times by the enemy fire.After I was set free from the house I did not see my father.I heard my grandfather and uncle had sought refuge on a tree but he w must have either been drown or killed by the enemy shots as the waters were rising fast andthe enemy beyond danger of the flood was pouring upon the struggling masses in the waters a withering fire of rifles and cannons.A little girl friend of mine was also on a tree.Her mother and father I saw hit by a bullet and fall dead into the raging waters."My mother was also drowned.One o

the refugees was safe in a big tree but many of the others were drowned or slain.The scenes were terrible beyond describing.Thousands of lives bodies, and as many corpses were floating down with me and away from me and the water was full of geysers made by solid shots and exploding bombs under the flood or disturbed by splashes caused by the rain of bullets.I would hear many persons shriek shriek and then they would disappear.All along the christian side of the shore were National soldiers who though exposed to the enemy's fire were desperately trying to save us but they could do nothing, and only a few were caught.''

The poorlittle boys story was butone incident and showed what happened to one family.No one knows what happened to the thousands of families who were in the path of the rushing waters.It was impossible to get any thing in the way of news, except meagre details.

Anceye witness at Delight's junction told a story of unparalleled horror which occured at the lower section of the Norma's Bridge which crosses the Sunbeam Creek at this point.Here were masses of soldiers floating on wreckage or rafts all these having belonged to general Muricas Loras command which which had al ost been wiped out by the flood.A young officer and two privates were seen coming down the flood on a piece of a roof.At the upper bridge a rope was immediately thrown to them.The enemy fire cut the rope to pieces and another the unfortunates failed to catch.Between thw two Norma Bridges the private was noticed to point tward the officer who it is supposed was his father.He was then seen to instruct the offic officer how to catch the next rope which was being lowered from the other and main bridge..down came the raft with a rush.One of the soldiers was hit by an enemy bullet and plunged into the torrent.The other brave private stood with his arms around the officer.As they swept under the bridge he reached up and saved the rope or seized the rope.He was jerked violently away from the officer who failed to catch the life line as a shot wounded his hand.Seeing that they would not and could not be rescued the private dropped the rope and fell back on the raft which floated on down now the target of many shots from the opposite shore.To make things worst the current washed the frail craft tward the enemy side of the shore.However the young soldier was able to seize hold of a branch of a large tree thickly covered with foliage.The young man then aided the officer to get up into the tree.He held on with his hands and rested his feet on a pile of driftwood.Aexploding shell struck the drift tearing it to pieces and the fragments floated away.The man hung with his body imershe imershed in the wate4 water.Another pile of drift soon collected and he was enabled to get another secure footing.

A bullet hit his foot seriously wounding it.Then there was a explosion near the bridge there came a sudden crash and a section of the bridge was blown asunder by the blast and swept away by the flood and this floated down the stream striking the tree and sweeping it away.All the two were thrown into the water and were drowned before the eyes of the horrified spectators just opposite the city of Delight's junction.

Earlier in the evening a lot of women and men and soldiers and even children and countless countless animals of every description were seen to pass under the bridge near Delight's junction all the people themselves clinging to roofs, wreckage and rafts, and refuges of every description and one after another were being hit by the enemys cruel fire from the opposite shore.A house top floated in near the christian side of the shore and on two was a women and two pretty little girls.A rope was lowered to the woman from the Norma's Bridge but she shook her head and refused to desert her children.It was said that all were saved all two three were saved not far from Great Hearts flooded cantonments a few miles miles below Delight's junction.A later report declared that many soldiers there not facing fire of enemy succeeded in rescueing many men women and children from the flood and also many soldiers.A numberof soldiers belonging to Lora's army succeeded in gettingout of the flood unaided.They were kindly taken care of by general Greathearts soldiers.

A sad incident occured later on near Norma Run.A little girl so pretty that at first ost of the soldiers mistook her for one of the Princesses of Abbiennnia passed under the great Norma Bridge just before dark. She was kneeling on the top of a house roof and had her ha arms stretched out as if begging someone tosave her.At this time at this point at least the enemy did not fire and every effort was made to save the child but for a long time they all proved of so no avail.

An officer who was standing by remarked that the piteous appearance of the little child brought tears t to his eyes.However when she was floated down near to Greathearts came some soldiers there managed to throw her a rope and fifteen minutes later she was being twken care of in one one the barracks far out of reach of the flood.....All night long

long to the crowdsof christian soldiers and even non combatants stood on the shores of the flop and all on the bridge.The waters rushed past with a great roar carrying with it parts of houses, furnitures and thick foliage and trees..he flood had ei evidently spent its force at where it started for no more living persons were being carried past now: Scores of thousands of watchers with lantrens remained along the shores of the mighty flood untill day break when the first view of the awful devastation of the flood and other horrors was witnessed.

When the great flood waves swept through the city of Marcocinio and upon the christian army under general Murcia Lora's christian army the people and even soldiers and animals who had even the slightest chance to escape ran hither and thiter in every direction in the greatest terror and confusion.However they did not have the slightest idea where they happen happened to be going only that an immse immase immse nse crest or sea of foaming waters higher than the housetops was roaring down upon them from the broken dam and that they must get away from that. Many in their terrr terror dived into the cellar of their very houses though this of course was certain death.Others got upon the roofs of all the house tops and clambered over the adjoining roofs to safty.But the majority including the armies made for the hills and high rise of ground but hardly any of these ever reached the hills for many of them were all caught in the mad fury of the floods.Thousands clung to trees and roots and pieces of debris and the like which had temporarily lodged near the banks and only a few of these even managed to save themselves.These people therefore stay ed out on the hills all night and all th the next day or they managed to find the main christian lines further away which sheltered them.However for all the survivors there was a great fear of going back to the town or the region of the flood because of the enemy who had been firing upon the flooded regions for fourty eight hours to prevent the rescue of all the unfortunate.Even the people whose houses the waters of the flood did not touch had abandoned their homes for fear of the clandelinians and began to think of all as Marcocinio as a city buried beneath the water.

When the christian troupers went tward Marcocinio to view the effects of the flood they saw many survivors who had dared to return put up in barns and sheds and in hou ses which had only been slightly ruined..ost of these had to sleep without any covering in their wet clothes and it took the liveliest kind of work and fighting to get anything to eat.The majority of those who couldhave been rescued were sheltered within the very flooded portions of the christian lines as much as possible especially in what could be spared of the few barracks left standing and some idea of the extent of the wredk wreck of the towns and villiages may be gathered from the fact that of the fewest of the thousands of buildings of the smallest town only two were left uninjured.

For the first two or three days the survivors as well as those of the devastated army were dazed at what had happened and even now they are still dazed.They all went about helpless making all kinds of vague inquiries for their friends and relatives and hardly feeling the desire to eat anything.Finally the needs of comforts overpowered them and they woke up to the factthat they were faint and sick.This was to some extent changed by the arival of tents and by the systematic military care for the many suffering.

The ''Fatal Norma Bridge'' as it is now called, and which so far before had been the scene of some bloody conflicts was now described by a war correspondent in this way;

''This bridge since the disasterous flood was now the matter of so much talk and writings and whose parcial resistance to the mighty torrent is a noble five track structure as well as having foot walks on both sides fifty eight yards wide on top, sixty four feet high above the water lineof both the Sunbeam Creek and the Norma gun river and consisting of one hundred and fifty skew spans of fifty nine feet each.Despite the fierce battles that had raged in its vinicity or on it it still remains wholly uninjured except that it was and is badly spalled on the upper sides by blows from the shell fire and also from the wreckage but that it remains so is due solely because it is of a heavy strong steel frame and other bridge work and was i or is one of the longest and most powerful bridges known.The torrent struck it with force enough to sweepother bridges away as if it had been built of card board leaving even no track behind but fortunately or unfortunately the Norma Bridge which was one of the most powerfu powerful made and though it was in the pathof the fullforce of the flood which hence struck the bridge full and compressed the whole of its spoils gathered in a onehundred mile course into one terrible inextricable mass with the force of tens of thousands of tons at nearly seventy miles an hour the bridge stood it all and the wreckage within the late evening was windrowed high against the bridge.

The spoilw of the flood consisted of more trees than one can count all trees and allfolinge of every description that the flood had touched and uprooted in its whole course with trifling exceptions, including countless numbers of large trees of every des r description all of which were comple tely stripped of their bark and small lim limbs all at onceand all the houses in the twenty five thickly settled towns and villiages, half the numaer number of humand beings and soldiers, and all the horses, cows cats dogs and rats, chic chickens and all fowls of every description that were in the farms n and in the houses, n n manyhundreds of miles of telegraph and telephone wires that were on strong poles in use and many times more than this that were in the stocks of mills, perhaps tw three hundred and fifty miles of railroad tracks and all track mar materials and all, hundreds of big locomotives, tons ofpig iron windrows or mountian of brick stone gravel sand earth, boilers steam engines out of factories, heavy machinery, batteries of cannons army wagons by hundreds, and other spoils of towns and villiages including all furniture and house hold goods that any one can think of.

All this was accumulated in one great inextricable mass which wedged against the north portion or side of the great bridge like a mountian of wreckage and this being the target of the enemy fire bombs immediately caught fire and the wreckage not wetted or touched by the water was soon aflame.Thousands if not hundreds of thousands of human beings, men women and children and even soldiers dead and alive were caught in it including many animals many by the lower and upper parts of the body Eye witnesses described the groans and cries which came from that vast holocaust for nearly the whole night and the next day as something almost unbear able to listen to yet which co uld not be escaped.Thousands undoubtedly suffered a most slow torturing death by fire, or were killed by solid a shot and rifle frfire from the enemy on shore, yet no one can doubt that the vast ma majority of the sold soldiers, men women and children in that fearful jam which covered the length of the whole bridge were already dead when the awful fire began, and when the enemy did all possible to prevent the work of rescue on the part of the Nationals and others.

The city of Delight's Junction is on a big flat near the north bend of the Norma Run River and this flat is formed by the junction of the big Sunbeam Creek, and the almost equally large Jennie W vivian Creek flow ing into the Norma Run fro m the south just above the big bridge.The bridge being of great height and extent it and the adjacent embankment formed something like a second dam about sixty feet high, Delight's junction a serving as a bed of a reservior which any one could judge to be nearly large enough to hold the one third of the flood except that it was already filled three feet deep or more by the first sign of the coming flood.One big off shoot of the main torrent was deflected s northwestward by the Gautlen Bend and went tearing through the heart of the more northerly section of the city, and still another similar big wave was split off from the main torrent further up but in the main the direct force of the torrent did not strike this city or other points further north.The main force struck first against Marcocinio, Mildred Greenburg Zannagustopolis and then sweeping further northward lost some of its fierce energy flowing thence northward in a heavy wid widely spreading lake all over the country side for a hundred and fifty miles which tossed houses of towns and villiages about in a very fantastic way so that every town li looked much like a childs toy villiages poured out of a box hap-hazard, the hos houses were t not torn to pieces generally.

About half the loss of life was in the region of Marcocinio for all this section of the country including the city itself and the three others speedily became a sea from thirty to fourty feet deep and swyed so for twelve hours or more, and therefore it was here and not in the main direct path of the wider sections of the flood that all the rescueing of people from roofs and floating timbern was impossible because of the fury of the flood and the wicked hinderance of the enemy.Near Delights unction rescue work was almost impossicle also.Likewise after the break in the embankment of the Norma Run Bridge and the flood began to recede from Delight's junction where it flooded the streets to a depth of twelve feet in some places it was from this districtl chiefl chiefly that so many people and soldiers were carried off down stream on floating wreckage and killed by enemy snipers and machine gun fire or drowned in the rushing wa ters.

And all that came within the direct path of the awful jam of the flood was fast within the jam windrows at the big bridge.The existance of this

immense temporary reservoir nat rally broke the full force of the flood near Delight's junction and transformed it into something not greatly different from an orda ordinary but hev heavy sea over land.Wottruba city Zoe Cllen Run, Logan Zoe Rae Run, Mic-Whirther and other places just above the bridge and above the city of Delight's junction were badly wrecked with the loss of unaccountable numbers of lifes, but in the main from Delight's junction down the flood ceased to be so very dese destructive and so swift.It took out almost every bridge it came to for more than a hundred miles.and washed away hundreds of miles of tracks rails and all and did other severe damage, but the probable Delight's junction Reservior saved t o hundreds of thousands of lives below it by equalizing the great one hundred mile wide flow.

Captian Andrew Wormann the main officer in charge ofone of the Angelinian baggage trains of general Loras army which was also caught in the flood at Marcocinio told a thrilling story of his own experience.mi gis long train of wagons with three others, and a strong force of one hundred thousand mounted men and officers had advanced to a siding of works on high ground at Marcocinio station opposite to where the bloody battle was raging.He saw the distant explosions at the dams, saw the monsterous floods coming and describe it as having the appearance of the ocean suddenly flooding the land as it sinks far below sea level through some convus convulsion.

He immediately ordered his men to lash their horses for all their worth and to get the wagon train outof reach of the flood.General johnstonia davis in charge of the cavarly was in the rear of the wagon trains and this officer had with him his invalid wid wife and three children aged, five, six, and seven.This general was engaged in getting his wife to much higher ground while another officer and two men grabbed up the children, and with one n under their arms started for the hills with the roaring water right at their heels.They ran a distance of about three hundred and sixty yards and barely managed to deposit their precious burden on safe ground before the sea of roaring waters swept past them.

The chief officer of the cavarly said it e would never be known how many drivers and horses lost their lives from the ill fated wagon trains or from general Loras's army. All the wagon s that were carried away had immense amounts of ammunitions and provisions in them how much no one would tell. Indeed some idea of the frightful and terrible force of the flood can be gained from the generals statement that many egines from the round houses of the various towns, hundreds of them in number swept past him standing half way out of the water, their fourty or fifty tons of weight being not at all sufficient to take them beneath the surface.Two hundred and ten shattered wagons were found later on the opposite shore and many frieght cars and baggage and passenger cars were seen later in all portions of the country where the flood had begun to recede.One officer had a most wonderful escape.He was caught in the whirl and almost all of his clothing was torn from his body but she was providentially thrown by the fiercely angry waters clear of the rushing flood.

This officer said it that while he lay more dead than alive on the edge of the flood, he saw Glandelinian ghouls rifle thebodies of dead soldiers and people and cut off their shoes and feet for the purpose of obtain ing something important they were after.This officer was r provifed with a suit of woman clothes and entered the christian lines thus arrayed.

Another Angelinian officer who had belonded to the ill fated wagon train had started to run his wagon up the rise of ground near by and then fearing to venture into range of the enemy sniping fire remained where he was rather ta king the chances of perishing in the flood than of being killed at the hands of the enemy in such a ruthless way. When the waters of the floods subsided some soldiers rushed to the wagon expect ing to find this officer dead but at this point the water had not gone high enough to drown him and he was all right though greatly excired and a little frightened.when the waters were still high the general who had been in charge of his cavarly made an attempt to get back to his marooned cavarly force,, but after riding his horse over two hundred feet through the flood he was forced to return to safe ground as the current of the flood got too strong for his horse to swim against it..... """""

The last train of wagons to which the Sunbeam creek permitted the cross ing crossing of between Delight's junction and Durandecallic rolled into the christian lines at 7.P.M. on that evening.It was a ton long ammunition and provision train.The last wagon was full full of cartridge boxes for rifle bullets and which had never stopped at so many parts of the christian lines before in its aristocratic life and which had been cut off the stalled wagon train at Jennie vian Townvto be taken back to Delight's junction. The rest of the train had started from general

Baldwins army and later had been known as the ''Army B nth Tub.
No name for a wagon train had fitted it better.This wagon train had plowed or rather swam through seventeen miles of water on its way from Delight's junction water differing in depth from five inches to three r four feet.The seventeen miles of water covered this roadway between Delight's junction and Norma Bridge.When the first or last ot of the other war correspondents touchee with the Angelinin Anthin news and to some great extent with the men w o make them dashed drippingly i t into the christian lines near Delight's Junction at eight oclock in the mro-mor ng morning they had encountered twenty miles and a half of water.However no reports of the increase in the Sunbeam Creeks overflow had reached belengurered Delight's junction during thr day and the wagon train had started out in spite of the peril with two cavarly forces accompanying it and a fair chance of reaching general _ivians army on sure time.The original two miles and a half of overflow caused by the back waters of other creeks was passed without incident.The water was half way up to the hubs of the wagon wheels and the force of the cureent was hurling on each side of a wagon fine billows of yellow water and sending swells like that of some tramp steamer in among the floating out houses and submerged slag heaps and the like of the city of Delights junction and bringing cheers upon cheers from many thousands who watched the slow but sure advance of the w g wagon train from their second and other up por story windows and from roofs and forgot the co dition of the first floor furniture and other property in their excitement of watching the amphibious prowess of the long wagon train.

''We have seen the worst of this awful flood''said one of the officers of the cavarly to a driver as the fourth mile of billows was passed.We have seen the worst of it but the wagons must not stop now or we'll never cross the sea.''

So puffing and panting the horses swam and ploddedwhile the baffled flood rolled its burden of driftw ood and other wreckage sullenly northward to the right of the train and even against it.The train went onward the horses obeying their masters and pulling and half swimming as hard as t e they could.The dry gound was just about long enough to get the long wagon train an impeticus for another header in the overflow of Sunbeam Creek.It was into this river itselfthat the wagons seemed to plough this time.It was no longer either the question of an overflow of a creek.The billows fro the revolving s and splashing horses swept not in among over turned out houses and submerged slag heaps and the like but out on the broad coffee colored bosom of the river and vl flood to be broken into a thousand chop waves among the churching de drift wood.The people on and in the uppoer sections of their houses forgot to cheer.The trip was cur ious and ticklish.The horses were plowing slowly and pulling very slowly.The wate : was growing deeper and deeper.At times the wagon wheels were al ost cut of sight and the water was swirling along the upper portion of the horses bodies and al ost up to their necks and lapping at the very inside of the wagons.The only sight of land locomotion about the wagon trains was an audibleone a watery swishing and pounding and rumbling of the wheels on the hidden roadway.The wagon train res resembled son some narrow and long river serpent wriggling on its long belly down and through the flood.Gradually there was a simultaneously though not concerted movements among the car cavarly who were now wading or swimming the flood.But what had appeared to be a recession of the flood water waters when looked at from above was merely a swellin swelling of the stream from the overflow of another creek which parellels the roadway for several miles or so at that point.All at once the wagon train which had now been moving more slowly for each of a good twenty minutes stopped short. t It seemed as if the horses had scented danger of some sort and panting refused to go further.Then the cavarly was seen by the drivers to urge their horses swimmingly through the waters and begin hauling at some unseen obstacle.

''Driftwood and wreckage and human bodies''said one o fficer.

Sovit was.Drift wood and wreckage and even dead bodies had helted the progress of the wagon train.All this was floating all about and threatened to impede the progress of the wagon train of seven hundred wagons.Fence rails from far up country farms, planks from dismangled signal stations, platforms along theline, railroad ties innumerable, branches and even small trees floated between and among the horses and against the wagon wheels with disjected stacks of green wheat and other crops upon the ever rising flood of the rivers.There had already been high dry land in sight just beyon beyond Aldon Station.but as sure as floods were floods the land was fast disappearing. hv the river of Sunbeam Creek and the Norma Run rivercwas steady.The inhabatants of the drowned lands who seemed to appear

to take the drowning very easy though no such a drowning had been known to any one since floods began had been in large numbers keeping company with the wagon train for the last three miles, in skifs, row boats and punts.They rowed close to the wagons and towed away the larger drift. However they were not entirely on life saving service as none of it was necessary here.There was a bit of wreckage in their composition. They towed the tree trunks, and railroad ties, floating furniture and the like into their front and back yards and anchored them securely to their window blinds.Finally the straining laboring backs of the horses h gn gave one mighty tug at the wagons.A huge platform plank plank and other wreckage floatee floated losse from the wagons and again the wheels began to church the brown water with yellowish white and at last the wagon train ran up on dry ground like the eagle in the sun to whom the Irish poet compared the Irish troops at Fontenoy.As they did so the clatter of the supporting cavarly troopers was heard from the east and the sound of cheering.Then another column of horsemen came around a bend and n galloped with a light heart up to the wagon train.

''We thought t you would never get through the flood''said the leader with surprise and joy.But as the flood was increasing there was no chance of any other wagon trains passing through.

A soldier who was above the danger zone of the battle and flood on the rig right bluff above the town of Marci Marcocinio and who saw th e first rush of the death wave of waters says that it was caused by four tremen dous explosions which he thinks was the explosions of four mines set by the enemy with the purpose to either destroy or rout general Marcia Loras army of christians.He declared that abo t hald an hour or more before the wall of water had reached the city and the christian army and spread ove over the whole country there was a series of terrific explosions some where in the upper and lower pot portions of the walls of the dam.He said he saw the eruptions of smoke and brick and mortar and eaty earth and even water rise high into the air and the next moment saw two lines of erupting flame rise through other portions of the wall in different directions and the whole wall was apparently being torn to pieces. hThe next munite the waters came and he remembered nothing further.There was really four great explosions that wrecked the dams wall just at the time of the flood.If thrre was also extra explosions the cause of the dread u ful flood can be easily explained.One woman frombthe city of Delight's junction was rescued alive from the attac of her home.The house had floated from what was formely Anderrone street to the edge of the christian camps.The poor woman said her experiences had been terrible. She saw countless numbers of soldiers, men women and children, and countless hundreds of all different kinds of animals floating down the fierce torrent to meet their death some of the people praying, while many thers had become raving maniacs.

The real horrors of the disasterous flood will never be known.And no one could ever know or realize the horrors of this terrible calamity unless he saw the thousands of burning people and the debris near the big Norma bridge with enemy sharpshooters and artillery rakeing it from one end to another and trying to prevent the work of rescue.No one could really realize the horrible nature of the affair and any one who could have witnessed the scene would not have been able to stand it.As soon s as possible after the first crash of the flood had passed many of the A g Angelinian soldiers had hastened twnrd their side of the bridge and saw many thousands, nay scores of thousands of persons, many of them soldiers struggling in the ruins, under enemy fire, and imploring for God's sake to release them.Frantic husbands and fathers stood at the edge of the furnace that was slowly incinerating human victims.Every one was terribly anxious to save his own relatives, and raved and cursed, and when sme one was saved the Glandolinians on the opposite shore cursed and blasphmee untill their horrible cries shook the air.No system no organized effort of any kind was made by the persons related to the vict victims to release them.Shrieking and cursing they would command; ''Go to that place please for God's sake go get her or him out''referring to some loved one they wished to have saved before the fire reached them or an enemy shot struck them.Under the circumstances it was necessary to secure organization of some kind, and thinking the Angelinian soldiers were trying to twarth their plans when the christian officers ordered other points to be attacked by the rescuers, they advanced upon them, threatened to shoot the Angelinian officers, or dash them into the raging r torrent and only the timely interferrence of the soldiers drove them back to their work.One of the men was trying to steer a float upon which his wife and three children sat on a matress and he lost his hold and in a moment

the craft swept into a sea of flame and do disappeared.The agony of that poor man was simply heart rending.Despite all the attempted hid hinderances of the enemy on the opposite shore every attempt was made to save every person possible and though Angelinian soldiers had been shot down by the score the officers had the satisfaction of knowing that fully two hundred and fifty were saved from cremation.One young woman and her two children was found under the dead body of her own father and mon mother.

A force of men attempted under fire to extricate her and succeeded in releasing every limb but her right lef leg.six men were shot down by enemy sniper s in this work.wor three hours the desperate dare devil rescuers labored while other A melinians covered their work by returning thefire of the enemy and every moment the flames crept nearer and nearer, and the flood rose and rose.One officer who saw his men being picked of by the enemy was on the point of ordering the men to either chop her leg off or kill her on the spot to save her from a far worse fate.It would have been much better to kill her off or save her life even at the loss of a leg than have her burn or drown to death.Fortunately it was not necessary but the young ladys escape from mutilation or death she will never realize or forget.The flood claimed among its countless victims not only the living, but the dead.Thousands or hundreds of handsome coffins were b found half burned in charred wreckage or floating on the flood either containing some dead woman, man or a child.The supposition was that the flood may have wiped out a cemetery for there were thousands of these coffins.

Houses of every various wrecked town were toppled over one another in rows or piles and left where they lay.Ten of them were found turned completely over and stood with their roofs on top of the foundation of another house and their bases in the air.The owner of one of these came back and gott ing in his house through the windows walked about on his ceiling.Out of this house a women, man and a number of children escaped safely and were only a little hurt although they were said to have been stood on their heads in the whirl.

Every house of this great flood was said to have had its own awful or peculiar story.Of many people escaped by chopping holes in the roof. From one house a soldier who had been thrown into the structure through a window g by the force of the flood leaped to the shore as the house went whirling past and fell thirty five feet upon a pile of wood and escaped.with only a broken leg, and arm and one fractured rib beside a broken collar bone, and a loss of a foot and finger besides many scratches, cuts and bruises.

One pers n is said to have come all the way in a house from the very very start of the fearful flood and to have mysteriously circled around with a blackward flow of the water and finally landed on a flat near the city of Delight's junction where it could still be pointed out.Yet how so many houses happened to be so queerly twisted for instance as if the water had a fierce twirling instead of a straight motion was ins indeed an unusual mystery.The c u course of the dreadful flood which devastated general Lorns army killing and drowning nearly a million of his able bodied soldiers and sweeping away to only god knows where the countless wounded of both sides, from the exact point where from where it issued from the Dam, to where it spread out over the whole country was clearly defined from the heights near Delight's junction.The whole body of water issued straight from the in ense dam in a solid long roaring wave and after sweeping Marcocinio and the christian army out of existance tore across the city of Zennagistopolis and so on down to the city of Delight's junction and here a solid cluster of brick blocks aided by the non conformation of the lan evidently divided a portion of the flood. whis freak prevented Delight's junction from being terribly wrecked.The greater part of the flood turned northward straight swept up the Sunbeam Creek and then mixed with the ruins of the villiages above down to the great Norma Bridge.The other sextion of the flood rushed into and even over the Norma nun River which for a while acted as a long dam and recieved most of the water untill one of its dikes broke from the force of the torrent and then the fury of the Norma nun River was also let loose and thus the flood was reinforced by t e the Norma nun River from the Bridge section this portion of the flood going southeastward where it reache reached ten miles and spent its force on a little town called Mildred Greenburg.The frequent changing of the courses of this immense flood forces against the bridge and towns, and then the bluffs, gave it a regular whirl ing motion from right and left and therefore made a tremendous eddy or whirlpool whose terrible centrifugal force twisted everything it happened to touch.This accounts for the comparatively narrow path of the flood through the eastern portion of Delight's junction where its

course through the thickly s clustered brick and frame buildings was as plain as a high way.The force of the main flood gradually diminished as it went northward for at the place where the currents separated every building of every devastated town and city in ground to shattered to pieces and carried away, while at the southeastern edge of Delight's Junction the houses were only turned a little on their foundations or turned over on their sides, or upside down.Further down they are not single but great heaps of ground lumber that looked like nothing so much as enormous wirballs.To the northwestward the work of the water was of a different sort.It picked up everything except the big buildings that divided the current in every street and piled the fragments down upon every bridge of the streams or swept them over or under and so on down the path of the flood for miles.This left the gragreat yeoolw sandy and barren plain where once stood the best buildings of Delight's junction, six opra houses, big hotels, l r large residences, many whole sale warehouses shops, schools, and the finest churches.In this plain now were only the tracks of the Mio-Hollester and Pandora railroad, a shattered school house and one brick residence all badly wrecked.Yet these tracks and structures did not relieve the shocking picture of ruin spread out in the path of the awful flood but by contrast made it more striking.Some of the queerest sights of the wreck was seen northeast of Delight's junction which city despite its size, and the last one to be touched by the flood, was the hardest hit.Many of the houses that are left there are scattered helter skelter, thrown on theirsides and standing on their roofs, yet these buildings were not belonging to Delights junction and never had been in that neighborhood before.They came down on the breast of the flood wave from as far up as Marcocinio and were carried softly by the flooded christian encampments and the bridges by the big buildings at the dividing line up and down on the great flood and finally settled in their new resting places little injured.

A long row of them pl packed closely together and every one of them tipped over at the same angle was only one of the queer freaks the wa water of the flood played.One of the soldiers got into one of these houses and saw that the lower story was filled with water and everything in it had been all torn out.The carpet had been split into strips on the floor by the sheer force of the crushing tide.High heaps of mud stood in t he corners.There was no sign of furniture.The walls were still dripping with mos moisture.The ceiling was gone, the windows all were out and the rain of a thunderstorm blew in nd the only thing that was left intact was a small candle stick hanging on the wall.

The remarkable stories that could have been told about people fo float ing two miles up the river and then back two or three times were easily credible after seeing the ev evidence of the strange course the terrible flood took near Delight junction city.Pep People who stood near the big Norma Bridge saw five women and a man and some children on a big roof flont up on the Sunbeam Creeks flood.turn a short distance above Jennie ,ivian city and come back and go past again and once more return while the wickedcensmies on shore were trying their level best to shoot the off the roof.Then they were seen to go far down on the current to the lower part of Delight's junction and were rescued as they pase passed the second story of a warehouse.A man who was imprisoned in the top floor of his floating house put his wife and three girl children on a large roof that was eddying past and s stayed behind with the purpose to die alone.They floated up the stream, went through six flooded streets of Fo Delights junction, then through one of the flooded christian canton ments, and then came back and got upon the roof of the very house they had left, and afterwards the whole family were saved.

Also at Delight's junction there was i or is a big wooden house which came all the way from Marcocinio.On it was a soldier who had seen the desc destruction of general Lorns army and who had been in the battle when the flood came.He was carried pa t night past hisown company street and coolly told his coarad s at the bridge to rwrite to his wife and children bidding the good bye.The house passed the city, and the camps fourteen times the man carrying on a conversation with the christian soldiers on whr the shore and giving directions for his burial if he body should be found.The last time the house went up it grounded at Delight's junction and in an hour or two the man was safe with his comrades once more.Three little girls who went by on a roof crawled into the branches of a big tree and had th to stay there all night and part of the next day before they could make any one understand where they were.At one time scores of or hundreds of floating houses were wedged in together near Norma

bridge and despite the danger of being picked off by the firesf the wicked Glandelinians many brave Angelinian soldiers went out from the shore and stepping from one house roof to another, though dreadfully exposed, brought in many women and children.Many women crawled from roofs and rafts into the attics of these houses.In their struggles with the flood, most of their clothes had been torn from them and rather than appear among so many men in the cantonments they stayed where they were untill hunger forced them to shoutout of the windows for help.At this stange of the flood more persons were being lost by being crushed to death than by drowning or being hit by the enemy fire.As they floated on roofs, or doors and rafts the toppling houses fell over on top of them and killed them.

However though Delight's junction was hardest hit there was not much loss of life here as the houses were crushed on one side of the city and not touched on the other a most remarkable thing considering the force of the flood.Twenty one bodies were taken out of one damaged building, after the worst of the flood had receded and taken to the morgue.They were not much injured considering the weight of lim lumber above them. In many instances the bodies were wedged in crevasses.Yet they were all in a good state of preservation and when they were alo embalmed they looked life like.Cottages and houses which were still standing were banked up with lumber and driftwood and it was like mining for the christian workers and prisoners to make any kind of a clear space. Thirteen hundred bodies were take from the burining debris near Normas Bridge at one time in the afternoon when the flood had gone so low that work was posible possible.None of these bodies could be recognized, and they were put in coffins and buried immediately.They were so badly burned that it was impossible to keep them unitll they could be identified. puring a series of blastings at the wreckage many bodies were almost burned to pieces.

The actual number of lives lost at this flood can never be known especinlly among the soldiers of general Loras army though it was claimedone million perished beside the millions of wounded, but over 45,678 bodies of the frightful catastrophe of all the men women and children of the towns were identified and either buried or cremated in the sands along the river shores, in the yards, and grounds and of the woods,and those bodies which must have ne been carried far down the Normas un river when the waters receded from Delight's junction two days later, the bodies cremated, the hundreds found on the Sunbeam shores, on the shores of the creeks, and those taken from the water, and finally all those discovered in all sorts of places, the bodies found outside of Dennis vivian town being buried or cremated when picked up, all these served to swell the list among men women and children to possibly 77,899 which was the figure named by general Robert vivian the fifth day after the dreadful flood.He had every opportunity for obtaining information on this point.

The bodies of general Loras army including the general and allhis officers were never recovered.

CHAPTER TWENTY NINE.....

THE BATTLE RAGES ON. THE ENEMY GETS WORSTED.

THE LULL.

IT IS RESUMED.

AS soon as this was done ten Abyssinkilian columns of infantry, proceeded by a Domdobian battalion in a wave line, advanced along the edge of the wood while a heavy mass of Concentinian cavarly advanced along a long but narrow plank road, and threatened the Omarians with destruction. The Glandelinian forces therefore especially those of the skirmishers fell back before the fierce round hatted Abyssinkilians.The Glandelinian general being in charge placed himself before a fore of Glandelinian Wheeler cavarly and chargedupon the advancing Abyssinkilian infantry, but these continued to press on, and recieved the "wheelers with so fierce a fire of musketry and plied the bayonet so wickedly that the Glandelinians retreated in confusion for the villiage or Sanitry Junction.The Glandelinian general was compelled to order the Omarian divisions to fall badk in good order, but by this time they were tooshaken to do so.The christian artillery of allmakes smoke them with such terrible effect that men were falling by the sixty thousand every ten minutes, the infantry columns swept upon them like a todando, the Concentinian cavarly came roaring and screaming down upon their left flank in a headlong reckless and irrestible charge.The Omarians lost their self possession, thousands surrendered in a moment, and the rest broke and fled in the utmost panic and confusion, some through the villiage others through the Abyssinkilian regiments on the left of the vill a villiage being so panic stricken that they either did not know, or did not seem to care where they g went.At this moment the gallent Omarian general Janes Martinquie while striving to rally one of his Corps recieved a mortal wound. He died a few hours later.The fierce and strong bodies of Growleywogx were now ordered to advance and covers the retreat of the Glandelinian Omarian infantry but as they moved tward the advancing christian forss they recieved an attack so fierce that they finlly lost heart, turned and fled from the field, the Concentinian cavarly charging hotly among them. Indeed so clenly were the two forces mixed together that those who were closer to the line of battle could not distinguish friend from foe.

Before the former Mangahl Mangaboo divisions could or had time to form line the Abyssinkilians were rushing upon them like a roaringstorm and for two or threece minutes the fighting hand to hand was severe andmost desperate bayonet to bayonet.The fourty Fourth Mungaboo Corps did not attempt to form in a line.It's general faced the rear ranks about, hand g thesepoured a tremendous fire upon the advancing Nationals but nevertheless it pressed on so irres i irrestihly that these Glandelinians too reeled back in confusion. Two Brigades of the 29th Zimmermanianv Division which had been cut off from the rest were almost annihilated, and the Triponligonlians added to by the Condencinians closed in round a portion of the Glandelinian "Wheeler"cavarly who had in a counter charged pierced them, and destroyed a every glandelinian to a man giving no quarter. The Twenty Eight Abyssinkilian Corps captured a lot of prisoners, and threece generals among them.....

Still at every point the Christian troops advan e advanced, and this was all the result of gannonias blunder.

"What do you think of it now, Vivianiaf"Captian general Hansonia asked as he watched the retreat of the badly shattered Glandelinian columns.

"I feel all right now"vivianis said"ThoughI thought at the beginning of the battle it would be all up with my career.Even a big Glandelinian officer was just dealing a sweet sweeping cut at me with his sabre when a shell fragment struck him.I confess I felt horribly uncomfortable while the attack of the enemy was threatening Herdrude."

"I should say so Your Excellency."

General Gannonia had upon the fall of general Martinquie in vain endeavored to rally the flying Omarians and Mangaboos and Zimmermannians.As he was so engaged a cavarly column of Winkie Abyssinkilians swept down upon him.He put spurs to his horse instantly and though fired at managed to gallp gallop to the spot where the Twenty First Divisional Corps were lying behind a long ditch bordered the creeem creek.The cavarly of the christians were danbe dangerously close to his heels ordering him to halt.He shouted to the ment of the Twenty First in front of him to quickly thrown themselves down, they obeted, and putting spurs to his horse leaped the ditch, and the men behind it, and instantly the glandelinianspoured in so terribly a volley into the Abyssinkilian cavarly

that ten thousand saddles were emptied.This caused the christian cavarly to recoil for a moment but not in confus on, and it finally retired in good order. Thinking the christians had been repulsed som of some of the leading squadrons of Wheeler cavarly however had galloped into one of the smaller towns, and cut down some of the inhabitants there including women and children but the Winkies closed round them, ab and being pent up in the abandoned houses fromwhich there were but one outlet for each house, scarce a man who had entered,escaped.

THe Abbiesnnians had now redi recieved heavy reinforcements-- Q antionies heavy columns of Angelinians h f having com upon the field--and as neither the Omarian nor the Mangaboo troops would be now able to face the christians they were free to not only sent forward their infantry but free to em employ their whole cavarly force against the Glandelinian infantry. The Nationals pressed on . General Jensins Glandelinians did not wait to repell the attack but led by him a d and Keptsoniain person resolutely advanced to repell the christian infantry.This feat never before attempted in Glandelinian military history was renderedabsolutely necessary in order to cover the flank of the Glandelinian army now by the flight of the others, and especially by the Omarin Omarians open to the attacks of the Aby osinkilian inca infantry.The fields here were covered with the groty growth of tall reeds, nd sun flowers that concealed the approach of the Angelinian indantry and it was only by the sound of many feet tramping through the fields as they rushed through the corn and sunflowers and reeds that the glandelinian columns knew when their fierce foes would be op upon them.

General Jensin was in the centre and he encouraged them by his presence and by his examplie,and for a time the Glandelinians now stooood firm but they nevertheless could not repulse the advancing christians who came on as if the opposing enemy was not there at all.The Thirty Ninth Division of Mic-Hollest inians were also exposed to a similar attack, and tried to repulse it, but everywhere the Angelin ian soldiers continued on ward firmly shoulder to shoulder shoulder, and nowhere did the opposing Glandelinian succeed in breaking their advancing lines.The enemy artillery couldn't check them and the glandelinian columns were destroyed by the return fire of the christian artillery,and several christian batteries were advanced to very short range, and opened with destructive effect.Stoutly as the I8,000,000 of the enemy fought---deserted though they were by the others----against Herdrudes overw overpowering numbers, they could not much longer stand their ground even when at the critical moment general Allens division came up by the pn planl road to their aid.General Hanovers Glandelinian division of Turmerannians advanced between the Glens and the woods, while general Standbys Mangaboos took up ground to the left on a six mile front and gave their support to the dreadfully hard pressed Glandelinians.

But Herdrude now was pushing forward every man at his own disposal.His masses of winkis cavarly charged down, and falling upon one of the Glandelinian brigades just arived cut it up terribly, and carried off three of its colors. The Thirty Second Abyssinkilian Brigade moved to the attack and cleared the glen with terrible slaughter.The Angelinian Infantry, supported by an immense column of the "Hooded Terror" advanced against general Jensin and the troops that reinforced him, and driving them back approached the spot where Allens Division division of Turmerannians were lying and threw themselves fiercely upon these blue coated Glandelinians.In vain its leading Corps attempted to make a desperate stand.The Abyssinkilians and Angelinians drove them bac, back in the utmos utmost confusion, and they broke and fled to the shelter of the glens where they tried fiercely and more savagely to resist the christian advance with grape and canister, mowing the attacking troops down in lines, but the survivors of the christian troops burst through without a pause.Their Angelinian general Hans fell dead, but his men more furious than before flung themselves more vigoriously upon the Glandelinians and drove them back in panic through the woods capturing the forest.General Herdrude still thought of prd pressing the desperate attack, for general Hansonia Johnstons divisions had arived, while at this moment two strong Corps of Domdobians with two batteries of machine guns came up, and almost immediately afterwards general Evans divisions, added by two Corps of the Abyssinkilian light footed infantry reached the spot. All these sdfs advanced against the recoiling Glandelinians.These new trooops had undergone a most tremendous march but they forgot their fatigue in their excitement of battle, and they all swept the Glandelinians before them and continued to press forward.

As they did so, all others joined in, and the whole christian line advanced, general Herdrudes divisions on the one flank,, and the remainder on the other. Again the Glandelinian infantry strove to stem the tide.One after another the positions they had won in the battle past were taken from them. Herdrudes divisions retook the villiages, the works were carried by Evan s while the Abyssinkilians drove the enemy out of the woods entirely.N A fog of s oke was now covering the scene, and the Glandelinians fell back under cover of this to their original position at the other creek, while the christians made preparations to renew the conflict as soon as possible so as to give the enemy no time to recover..As there was danger of Cannonias main bodies coming soon parties of troops chopped down hedges, and broke up fences and fies were soon blazing to increase the smoke.Owing to the late noon hour at which the first section of the fight terminated, and the strange confusion among the baggage wagons that were now beginning to come up from the rear, no regular distribution of rations could be made for dinner.Nearly all of the soldiers however had filled their knapsacks before advancing, and a small party sent down the road ob tained a sufficient supply for the rest from a commissrait wagon.While the smouldering fires were being lighted the light companies were ordered to aid as far as the lull would permit in the work of collecting the wounded.. Many other regiments had also sent out parties, and the work went on.Owing to the frequent movements of the troops and the desultory actions;and the thick mass of the smoke it was dis difficult to discover the wounded, and because o of the frightful havoc made by the explosions of so many shells, there were no proper materials at hand from which torches could be made.

During this time no distinction was made between friend and foe.The many bodies found to be cold and stifff, were left where they lay, the wounded were however lifted and carried to one or the other of the spots where the army surgeons and doctors were hard at work giving a fresh dressing to the injuries, or where absolutely necessary giving amputations.After an hours work the light footed companies were relieved by the others, and these in turn by the other companies, so that all might have a chance to obtain as much rest as possible before the battle would be renewed.

Most of the troops who had come to the aid of the h hard pressed Glandelinians were terribly fatigued for they had had a fourty six miles march at hard pressed time, and nearly four hows continuous and hard fightin g against dreadful odds, and to make it worse the christians were fresh, at high spirits over their success, had plenty of water provisions,and held the creek, two towns, and even the woods they had captured. The Glandelinians who had fought the battle were seriously handicappped and were suffering severely from the want of water.They had started sometime in the early morning with full canteens, but the duty march through the heated atmosphere caused by the flood, and also by the fire(the water of the flood sometimes steaming) had produced such thirst that most of these were emptied long before they reached the field of battle and no water was to be found near the spot to which the foe had been driven, and indeed with the exception of a very sma,ll regiment in one of the villiages still in possession of the Glandelinians,who obtained water from a small creek running through, the whole part of the army that had been engaged were hadicapped for want of water.Water had however through som desperate through som desperate effort had been fetched for the enemy wounded, whose first cry as their comrades reached them had always been for it, and even when the search had been ceased because of the danger of further conflict there were great numbers stillll lying in agony scattered over s uch an armoru enormous battlefield!

Most of the christian troops had filled two canteens with brah brandy and water at the suggestion of their leaders.

"The less you drink my lads, the better"their commanders had said""And also the chances are you may find by the end of the battle every drop will be worth its weight in gold.Ifany you have the luck bad luck to be wounded your selves the contents of the canteens may be the means of saving your li e lives but if you don 't want it yourselves, you may be sure there will be many many thou sands ofpoor fellows to whom a mouthful will be a blessing indeed.

So many of them had found it. Most of the christian soldiers had drank very sparingly on the way to battle, scarcely permitting themselves to do more than wet their lips, but when they set about the work of collecting as many as w of the woundeed as time would allow they felt more than amply rewarded for their little sacrifices by the grateful thanks of the manypoor fellows to whom they were able to give a mouthful of their hoarded stores.

It was not untill his own return to the rear that general Herdrude learned the extent of the loss of his own troops.He knew by the smallest of the number that had been mustered howmuch his own Division had suffered, and in the brief intervals in the struggle he had heard something of what was doing elsewhere.Lieu Lieutenant general Sheidls had fallen early in the fight shot through the head and heart as the Brigades of Abyssinkilians went forward to attack the Glandelinians.Cantian general Canon had recieved a bayonetwound through his arm but had managed to make a sling of his large handkerchief, and had kept his place at the head of his division.

The officers were all gathered round one of the fires, when general Viviania returned.

"I see you too are wounded general Hansonia as your left arm is ina sling."he said."Nothing serious I hope?"

"I do not think so but it sure if paining me bad.It was a Glandelinian cavarly lancer who done it.Fortunately one of the men shot him at the very instant the confounded"cat"struck me and it was only the point of the lance that went through my shoulder.Still I'm afraid it made a wound big ehough to be too much for pain, the more so because it gave a frightful wrench as the man in being shot dropped the lance.However it is nothing to grumble about, and I can consider myself very lucky indeed that I only recieved a flesh wound when so many scores of thousands of good fellows have fallen never to rise again."

"Yes, considering the awful number on engaged the losses have been terribly heavy"General Viviania said"It looked verybbad for a time when Herdeu Herdue was first engaged.They say he was losing men by the eight thousand for every time the enemy fired a volley, and something had to be done to stop that.Eight thousand men a minute for an hour was the loss they say he suffered before we came to this aid."

"That is was"General Hansonia agreed. "That is what comes of fighting against Cannonia and being prepared for action.It's always been the case when we get mixed up in dreadful hand to hand fights.Look at Cedarnine some time again when three battles were fought there, July the Io, and again on the I3th, and the last tremendous action on that creek between Nelkingburh and Headwick Junction.The enemy lost only because the odds were against them."

The Glandelinians However did seem to fight very fairly at the beginning general."

"Yes I will admit that.But what's the good of fighting at the beginning if they are going to bolt in the middle of the mornings action.The enemy will say we fought with unfair means I suppose.But some of the Omarian divisions gave us the chance to worst Cannonias first section because they went off in panic, and left general Can Craniers divisions alone to face ourwhole force and I do not believe Cannonia h can worst us now unless there is im for Mylatze to come up, and we don't propose to wait that long."

"Yes, we must be quick on the nick of time.By the way has any one heard what has taken place on our left where Hindernine and Marcus were engaged with the enemy.?

"We have hard nothing,but I think without the slightest doubt the foe there too must have been thrashed. One could hear the tremendous roar of battle there almost incessantly, and I am sure it got farther off at the end of this morning, besi e besides if the foe had beaten Hindernin e we would too be forced to fall back and you can see by their long lines of long range firing they have not done so.I dare say we shall probably hear all about it to morrow.Anyhow we better muster up our other divisions under Vivianana, and Francis Hansonia and go at Cannonia himself before Mylatze hears the fighting and comes to aid him. Cannonia started this; and we'll finish it."

The Glandelinians who had attacked general Hin dernines army had indeed been beaten and seriously.Their three corps numbering ne nearly eighty million men on a fourty mile front with twenty two thousand two hundred and thirty four guns had been attacked by Hindernine with less than IO? IO/000,000 ten million men with only two hundred and fourty machine guns, and without the support of the heavy artillery.The battle was contested indeed with most extroardinary obstanicy on both sides and with immeasurably fury and with also miraculous means for it to rage on so long a front simultaneously and all day long without any abatement.Two towns known as Daisysburg, and the other Sunflower villiage were retaken and retaken over and agan over again in a scene of battle fdrcer than any dreadful action seen on any front of this length in the World War and for many hous the desprate strife in around the towns continued without intermissions and hundreds of thousands e fell to rise

h no more.Both sides continued to send down reinforcements to these points but for a tim neither could succeed in obtaining entire possession of them,and great fires broke out, followed by terrific explosions that went off with actual the force of real volcanic eruptions and showered troops ten miles away with debris.The faults which vivianin had perceived in the Glandelinian position at this section told against general Empery Dage who was defending here.The two towns seemed or were entirely to far in advance of the heights on which this portion of the Glandelinian army wasposted, ad and his reinforcing troops therefore were compelled to take a very long time in reaching the spot where they should be required to act.They too were as they made a descent of the hills under the observation of general Hindernine who had been able to observe their arival and to intercept it by moving up strong supports on his own side, and who noted the time when Dages last reserves behind Gran Hill had come so slo l slowly but fiercely into action.

And to make it worst at this critical moment general Quimbies arived from Richee Turns Creek with I2,000,000 fresh men and three hundred heavy guns and at seven oclock in the evening Hindernine launched this force with his division of gray coated Calverinians,20,000,000 strong which had before this been kept in reserve against the Glandelinians.

The two towns were captured and the victory won.The Glandelinians throughout the day had fought with the greatest bravery, but the Calverinians had a long score to wipe out against the Glandelinians, and were inspired as much by National hatred as by milit ary ardour, and yet the Glandelinians claimed that they were defeated rather because of the disadvantages of the position they held, than to the superior numbers and fierce fighting qualities of the christians.

Their "Wheeler Calvarly, and the mounted Gargoylian Kurds had a number of times made desperate charges, sometimes against the Abyssinkilian horse, at others upon columns of infantry .In one of these general Dage was with them, and as they were driven back by a counter charge of the fierce Concentinian cavarl y his horse was killed, bringin g him to the ground. His aide-de-camp leaped off and threw a cloak over him as the Concentinians came thundering past intent upon taking the Glandelin ian cavarly. In their excitement they did not seem to pay any attention to this one single dismounted man, and a few minutes later again passed the spot, this time in qa temporary retreat, a fresh body of Glandelinian cavarly having suddenly met them.Again they passed by the fallen Glandelinian general little dreaming indeed that one of their most formidable and determined Glandelinian foes lay there at their e mercy.As soon as the Glandelinian cavarly came up, the dead horse was moved, and Dage who was insensible carried to the rear, where he soon recovered and resumed the command.

However though beaten the Glandelinianforces were not yet routed.They had through Cannonia's blunderlost the main key of the post position selected for him by Mylatze, but nin night came on before the terrific battle terminated and under cover of darkness they fell back quietly and in good order to the shelter of Cannonias main line.General Kauffmanns Tenth corps on the extreme Glandelinian left had taken but ,i little part in the fdrce fighting, and as the centre and right of the Glandelinian army of Dages retreated, he advanced fell upon the christian troops in the darkness and for some tim by the force of the violent attack held them back, thus giving time to the rest of the army to reform its ranks and recover its discipline.After this having rendered great service by thus occupying the christians Kauffmann took up aposition upon the heights, and remained facing the christians while the defeated corps took post in his rear.The Abbisannians were too weary to follow up the advantage they had gained so readily because of Cannonias blunder, and therefore the night passed without any attacks being made, and at day break aportion of the Goa Glandelinian force started on their retreat to Standard Farm the cavarly remaining behind to cover the movement, check persuit and conceal if possible from the christian line by which the army was falling back.The persuit however was readily tak n taken up at daybreak by the Concentinians, and they drove in the glandelinian cavarly and ascertained the route taken by the Glandelinian infantry under Dage, the christians then got into motion, and the contest was threete threatening to be r sumed again, and at desultory points there was some very unusually severe firing.

Ghere too was a general feeling of disappointment among the gallent christian forces when on the following morning orders were issed for them to abandon the ground they had so brilliantly captured and move round to the flank for they had hoped the enemy to day would do the attacking.They had been astir at daylight, firearms were cleaned fresh ammunition served out from the reserve wagons, and the men though under shell fire fell into the ranks

expecting that in a short tim they would again ge be attacking the enemy but the enemy apprantly was retreating. The commisa ariat wagons many of them too had comeup in the darkness of night, and with the break of day the rations were served out and the troops prepared breakfast, even though under fire. As soon as this wasxover strong parties were ordered to move forward over the battlefield, while all the wounded which had been found had been placed in ambulance trains and country carts, and other wagons and dispatched tward where they could recieve proper care. Presently a general movement of the greatest baggage trains ever imgined was observed by the troops to be taking place and the long column moved along the road, and through the thin parts of the wooods and over the fields to the south, under however quite a sharp shell fire which however did not yet do much damage. General Vivianis, knowing the battle would soon come worse than before had sent off a staff officer to ascertain the state of things at Catherine Constantine Town, and he soon returned with the report that the Glandelinians had retreated but were resisting the christian advance with unusual desperation and the battle was growing extroa extraordinarily severe and violent. He then sent out a large force of Abyssinkilian Winkie, and Hunchkin cavarly under general Anexdria Wellen. This officer pushed foew forward untill he encountered general Zana who was engaged with the enemy who was pushing on at North Bend but a mile distant from the battle field of the day before. There was an unusual steady roar of cannons in that direction, and the general informed him of the whole events of the morning and gave him the important news that a past part of the Glandelinian army after resi siting from four till six in the morning had retreated to Mount Plateau and was joining with general Emery Bluein on the right where th the main Glandelinian general was fixingup for preparations to still carry out hispurpose and drive general Vivionia back.

The news relived general Viviania of all anxiety. It had been before arranged that general Francis Hansonia if victorious should if possible advance to and through the North Bend Region, but he had not believed the general could have done this, and would be compelled by the unusual events of the conflict to retire upon his bases at Riches's Bend and would not be abld to effect a junction for som days with Herdrude, and the latter would have to again been obliged single handed, to bear the brunt of the whole of the "Red Shadows" attack.

The laters plans had indeed been entirely based on the supposition that general Francis Hansonia would retreat upon North Bend and in order to force him to do so Cannonia had abstained from all counter attack upon Herdrudes divisions and Hansonia Johnstons left and was employing as it seemed his whole strength against the right and center, so as toswing him round and force him to retire by way of the plank road, but Herdrude and Francis Henson ia were in stronger numbers than he supposed, and Canonia was succeeding just as perfect i' in his plan as a foolhardy man does who tries to fight a strong boxer with his two hands hand cuffed behind his back.

As soon as general Viviania learned that Francis Hanson ia had carried out the at arrangement agreed upon his mind was at ease. Cannonia could not force him back, nor stay his advance, and in his effort to sent even troops to the firing line Cannonia was wounded slit slightly and had lost three horses in the b a rgain and was now dismounted from a fourth. Generl General Viviania sent orders at onceto the troops advancing from various directions that they should move upon Centralia Junction, and strike general Cannonias left wing on the rear. Because of the violence of the battle all the baggage was sent back to the hills, and the ammunition wagons were concentrated within easy reach of the soldiers. Horsemen were also sent along the road to keep the very baggage wagons moving and they had orders that if the troops of reinforcements came close upon them they were to at once clear the roads of all vehicles.

Having therefore issued all these orders and seen that everything was in train, general Viviania allowed the troops under Beppo Evans to rest themselves, and ordered their dinners or breakfasts rather to be cooked. As the other victorious christi n forces were moving on, there was no concerted movement seen on the part of the Glandelinians, and he felt therefore there was no occassion to hor hurry matters. Those therefore of the soldiers who were nout on the march stretched themselves on the ground to rest. Breakfast over the infantry marched off in sixteen long columns, the cavarly remaining untill eight or nine of cl ck in the morning, when upon the advance of Ney Jauffmann in front and Angelinia's Napoleon on the left they deipoyed to the right to sup ort these and joined these two columns. A rain of shell fire was opened upon Ney by a portion of a Glandelinian battery and as most of it was shrupnell the fragments became thick thret threatening the lives of all who were in the shell zone.

"This shelling of the enemy certainly issier miserable." General Ralph Andersonia said to his friend after the columns started on.

"I am surprised to say or hear you declare it is mis miserable Ralph. Yet of course I was certainly thinking so myself but you seem to always accuse me of being a grumbler, so I thought I would hold my tongue. But yesterday it was the stiffest battle we have ever fought yet."

"General Andersonia laughed. "I don't think any one could deny that this is surely miserable, general Turmer, but most or all of us keep up our spirits under miserable conditions like this, because there is no way out. And this is one of the occassions on which it is really very hard to be cheerful. But we are not alone in misery. We are shelling the foe too. The shell fragments no doubt on both sides are coming down heavily from the sky like rain and it we seems as if the enemy mean to keep it up. The ground we see over yonder is rorn skyward by terrific "eruptions" and we have got to advance through that hell, but I do not fear even those high explosives asmuch as the spattering shrapnell, its that that gets you. I think the best plan for us will be to take the chances, for we have better hopes to getting to Heaven if we are killed than the Glandelinians have. They are fighting for a wicked cause."

"It is beastly." General Turmer said emphatically. "Look at the men who are advancing in lines miles long, what a sight as the shells tear through their columns. Were the main army under Myletze to come and aid crazy Cannonia now you wouldn't see our bravest men fight as they did yesterday."

"But you must remember general Turmer, the Glandelinians are getting it just as bad as we are, as our batteries are pouring also a storm upon them. This is not a little private shellfire of their own either you know, got up for our special annoyance, but it extends right over the whole country. This battlefield is an inferno."

"What nonsense you talk, general Andersonia, as if I didn't know it."

"Well you spoke as if you didn't Turmer, but you will see the boys will fight all the harder when they are called upon if Myletze does hear the battle and come to general Cannonias aid. Just at present they are not only discoherted disconcerted by the enemy shell fire but they are disgusted. And I own it is disgusting after fighting as hard as they did yesterday to fin d that Cannonia is so sutto stubborn, and instead of marching against the enemys main rear Cannonia makes it so hard that we are forced to engage him in front. Of course it can't be helped, and if we did wait another half hour we should have all the Glandelinian army upon general Herdrude, and for him yesterdays work would be mere childs play. Cannonia is dangerous and we have to watch out. Still I quite enter into the soldiers feelings. Of course they I suppose do not understand the situation, and regard this as simply a drill advance in stead of only forcing the enemy to shift his positions."

"Still the enemy are in a ticklish position ain't they. You see to us there's room enough along on the top of that slope for our whole troop which now is advancing that way though the enemys position is walled in smoke, and our guns are sweeping the long salient between us and the opposite rise, and if we attack in general the foe will have to experience the same situation or sensations as they did yesterday of being o pounded and pounded without the satisfaction of being able to return the fire. Of course our advancing troop must crop cross that ditch to get at the foe--which they will as they will be the strongest party- -and our artillery will be able to cover their attack splendidly from that position. (pointing) Then two there are four great farm houses near r our side than theirs, and I suppose they will be held by us in force. So it seems we have the upper hand. Butthere over in the west is a position which the enemy may hold secure. It looks like a long wall and a sort of enclus enclosure and we might have hard work to turn the foe out of it. Yes this for us may be a fine place to contest the enemy on our own chosen ground, and we shall have the full advantage here of seeing all over the field and of knowing what is going on in other places tooo, while yesterday we couldn't see three yards before us. During the whole timeone was fightin g one felt that it might be of no use at all for our armies might be getting smashed up in some other parts of the field."

"I never thought anything about it "General Turmer said. "My only idea was that I must look as if I wasn't afraid of what may happen, and must set a good example to my men, and that it was all very unpleasant, and that probably my turn might come next and that I would have given a good deal to be somewhere where shots could not hit me/.

"Well Crain, what is it?" general Andersonia asked his aide-decamp who approached with a long face.

"Have you any special cavarly scouting parties out, your honor? I have been trying to see what the enemy intends to do now for the last half hour till my men won't go forth so heavy is the shelling from the enemys lines, and I have lost my horse which was killed under me."

"That's bad Crain, but I don t think you should go scouting now again anyhow. It is too dangerous and we will advan ce soon anyhow."

"Inthink sir we could get the columns to go forward if once we can get the enemy batteries silenced.I observed the enemy caverly up to something and when the Gargoylian Kurds saw me and myhtroopers they began at me as if I had robbed them of their only kids.I was lucky we were able to outride their speedy horses or we would not have survived the ordeal.The batti battle is too bad entirely, yor honor, and the boys are well nigh broken hearted that the foe won't retreat, but resists so hard this morning."

"Ah w ll they willretreat to morrow Crain, and as for the battle, I guess you have got used to such outcomes by now."

"I have indeed sir, and many a time and i I didn't care much about it.But then there was a different fashion in the battles being fought, and that makes all the difference in the world.What are we doing to do in another hour is what I would like to know."

"Our columns will be moving against the enemy across that open ground."

"It'll be dangerous won't it sir.!And hor shall we get across the open space."

"You won't be worse off than any one else Crainerja you see we shall all be in the same boat.Well there goes the bugles.I should recommend you to get another Horse."

"That's the difficulty, sir there is not another horse tp n to spare."

"Look here Crain, I'll loan you one of mine."

"That's a grand idea sir.I hope you will do it sure enough."

"But how about your men Crain."!

"I have plenty of them sir. Now I must be off sir, for m my regiemtns are ready for my orders."

Great masses of the enemy could now be seen ariding on the crest of the opposite rise, and their lines became clouded in smoke. Presently a severe christian artillery storm broke these lines up into regiments, and caused the others to fall back.In a few minutes smoke rose in the rear of the christian line and it was seen half a dozen greatvfires were blazing having been set by the enemy shell fire.Men came from the near by regiments to be on their guard in case the enemy would make a counter assault which was the way of the enemy most terribly at times.However the news soon spread along the christian lines of the means by which Herdrudes troops was advancing, an as Crain had fortold, the number of artillery coming into action was ernormous, and the din terrific. And strong parties from each regiment were told to go off to the n n near by woodpiles and try to snip off Clandelinian gunners from there with smokeless rifles, and in spite of the continued downfall of Clandelin ian shrapnell fragments, the mens spirits arose, and sometimes even merry laughs were heard among the groups firing from behind the wood piles at the enemy artillery men as they succeeded in getting their prey.The officers operated one machine gun nest themselves.Of food however there waslittle beyond what could be obtained from one another who had more than his comrade for the provision wagons had gone on a little ahead to leave room for those carrying the ammunition , and were no so far to the left that it was loss of time during battle to get at their contents, and give them out among the troops. For an hour or two long lines of s,l skirmshers from all hidden points, with rifles or machine guns kept up their n fire tward the enemy,and discussed the probabilities of the str gg e struggle that would soon begin at any time.The worst of the artillery fire was between two batteries of Viviannnnas division, and the same number of the Clandelin ians.The latter increased the artillery storm by opening upon the position of snipers by the wood piles, but were too far away to do much harm though the explosions of terrific shells about them hurled clouds of earth and debris in all directions so that the air was dark with it like a storm.Viviannnnas guns got the rage ov of two columns of clandelinian art infantry, and two batteries of a rtillery and played a "St Pierre"horror among them.Great clouds ofsmoke from fires in ten sified the scene, and then a great wave of clandelinian troopsmostly zimmermannians charged forward changing into three long columns or tio thick lines and for a moment the shock of the attack was so violent that it drove back alarge portion of Hindernines army in some confusion, and carried the first lines of works, but general N. ightlinger Turns troops which were posted behind barric ades. opened such a fire of musketry and artillery upon these enemies that though they charged on, in spite of being mowed down line byline, they fina,ly couldn't stand the ordeal and wavered, and then the Thirty First christian Light Dra too Dragoons who were of the Colverinian Loyal Clandelinian legion posted in front of the small brook of Pure s rings countercharged and struck the wavering Zimmermannian line cutting throughlike a comb through hair and drove them back with more frightful loss, and panic stricken capturing many prisoners.

Gradually becauseof the mastery of the christian gunners the Clandelinian artillery fire seemed to slacke slacken, and the troops under Viviannnna made their preparations, and in spite of the heat of the morning, and the cheerless aspect of the sky because of forest fire smoke soon started to move forward. All this time a deep sound had fillled the air telling of the heavy trains of artillery and ammunition wagons criving from the rear to both armies of the christian forces.At eight oclock general Turner was called up, as his Corps had to relieve those which were suffering great losses from the enemys artillery fire.The orders were not to advance untill further notice was given.A third of ty the men were thrown out as skirmishers, the others pushed on about fifty yards in the rear, moving forward as slowly and as cautiously as possible. General Cain left general viviennatine with the reserve, and himself paced up ndand down the lon g lines of troops.The line of q advance of this column extended to some ten miles in length, moving now across a brow of a gradually rising slope the two extremities which projected somewhat beyond the center and was so exposed to the enemys rifle and artillery fire, that the advancing troops halted untill the christian artillery covered them at this poin t.The ground was open without woods or hedge rows, and about half way down the slopes lay five farms, in possession of Clandelinian machin e gun nests.On the right but in the valley was the Sanitary Creek and in front of this la, a sort of extensive wood with a close hedge, and some houses and farm buildin gs which were surrounded by a strong wall.All this was covered by wreaths of smoke from the enemys steady fire.In front of the centre of the line of battle now moving forward lay some other farms abutting on the Evangelin e St Claire Railroad which as it passes the farm ran between two deep banks.In front of the left of the line were other farms.Beyond lay the main dense dense Mid Hollester Forest.At the top of the ridge the ground slightly sloped downward and the defensive clandelinian infantry were posted a little in the rear of the crest which hid them from the sight of the advancing christians, and protected them from artillery fire.The whole of this slope and the valley beyond it was covered with waving stretches of high weeds flowers and grasses and bushes.Upon the opposite side of the valley there was a rise of the same kind but higher and on this was the christian position.N early to the left of this stood other farms close to which Cannonia took up his stand during the bad result of the battle before Mylet-e arived to his aid.Behind the Clandelinian position the ground fe l away and rose gently to a crest on which were the dense forests of a portion of the "Red Riding Hood"woods all Turpentine Treeeees. The great Mid-Hollester Forest also extended to this point so that if obliged to fall back Cannonia hoped to have aposition in his rear as strong as that which he now occ p occupied.

The moving column of attack was advancing in this arrangement;

On the left moved general Vivian johnstons brigades and divisions supported by the dangerously Concentinian cavarly.Then came general Turners divisions the first line being composed of Munchkins, Winkies and Angelinians, also Abbiennnians and Domdobians, which general Painders division of Tripongl lians and other brigades extending in its advance to the Evangeline St Claire railroad.Hannonia's division was on the right of Herdrudes.His second Corps close to the road consisted of the Second and Third division of Angelinians and also the 10th and Fourteenth Abyssinkilians battalions.Next to these came a Calverinian divisionbon the right of whom were the Abbiennnian divisions under general Constantine.On the extreme right was general Viviannnnas div isions having with them a Concentinian Brigade, and two companies of christian Clandelinian brigades.Behind the advancing infantry line i was the cavarly. In reserve were the divisions of the other generals so well known.The artillery also advancing(light pieces) were placed at intervals betwen the infantry, and the heavy shell guns on various commanding points along the ridge.

General Cannonia had expected a general attack very early as it was of the utmost importance to Vivienia to crush Cannonias army before Myletze who certainly would and did hear the battlecould come up, and indeed the peculiar part of it was, that vivienia started the attack even before the time planned. Cannonia was alarmed.He saw his blunder, of engaging the dangerous christian general without support and sent a swift messenger to Myletze telling the situation and asking for help, declaring that his cavarly upon whom he greatly depended would not be able to act on time, and that he had lost many precious hours because of the violent christian attacks of the day before.And to make it worse from the christian positions came heavy masses of Calverinians moving down from the opposite heights and the artillery fire f was growing from being severe to an awful intensity so that the explosions of shells near the fospositions made it seem as if the hills were erupting into the air.

While awaiting the christian attack the Glandelinian infantry were were lying down, the cavarly dismounted in their rear, and so completely were they hidden from the sight of the Abbiennnians that Cannonia believ that vivienia believed the foe had retreated or was recoiling to find means to rejoin Myletze.He however was not annoyed for he knew from the continual firing the enemy was close by and the heavy fussilades always reached his ears.At eight o'clock Cannonia who was anxiously looking in the direction from which he expected a portion of Myletzes army to appear saw a wave of mounted men in the distance on whose left wid side was a seemingly endless column of infantry, and soon afterwards a an orderly rode in and informed him that Vivienia was moving large troops forward to take his left wing in the flank.Even then Cannonia re alized that Evans had failed to intercept the christian divisions. .It was about two hours earlier then Cannonia had supposed that vivienia launched the attack, and the leading brigades of the advanci advancing christians broke upon up into skirmishing order.Also all the christian batteries opened fire, though the glandelinian machine guns also opened upon the advancing christian troops.

The christian skirmishers advanced bravely and fiercely, and constantly and heavily reinforced drove back the Omarian and Mongaboo and also the fierce Zimmermannian riflemen in front of the forests.Then a portion of Leo Custell io s batteries of centemeters and howitzers opened with shell upon them, and so well and murderously were they served that the Angelinian skirmishers skirmishers fell back hostly pressed by the Zimmermannian troops of the First Corps issueing from the Red Riding Hood Woods.The roar of cannon speedd speedily extending along the whole battle line on both sides made a dreadful din, the christians aiming to cover the columns of advance, and the enemy who could see no foes except of the lines of s skirmishers firing in vain upon the christian batteries. However the christian attackers sav suffered severely from the enemys a t artillery.General Heins who commanded on Hansonids left sent strong columns of su pport to the skirmsi skirmishers trying to force back the enemy frombthe west bank of the creek, while general Henrys division moved to attack it in front.These brave troops moved on, the terrific artillery fire of the enemy not stopping them being supported by the concentrated fire of theirpowerful artillery against the Glandelinian position.The Omarians therefore after a most obstinate resistance were forced back through the wood.The Abbe Abbiennnianspushed on through the trees untill they reached a rocky slope which seemed to them to be the only defenses of the enemys inner os position.But thirty yards in the rear was a long emilent flanked on the right by machine gun batteries stretched along a long brick terrace surrounding s sort of farm house.Even all the terraced walls had been carefully loopholed and from rifles and machine guns so terrible a storm of fire opened upon the christians, that after being mowed down in two full lines they were forced to recoil and seek shelter among the trees and ditches in the rear.Tubner seeing that his troops had won the Red Riding Hood Woods and being ignorant of the formidable defenses that arrested their advance sent fresh masses of men down to their assistance.Although they suffered terribly from the Glandelinian musketry and artillery fire they finally gathered in the woods in such numbers, and were soon supported by bombing artillery of their own, and also aided by the grenadiers who tossed a storm of explosives upon the enemys position that they gradually drove back the Glandeliniandefenders into the clearings of the forests, and completely surrounded the posti position and sailent, the others pushing on .The defenders had not even time to recoil their artillery and these were turned upon them.The Glandelinians counter charged but the christians met them with the bayonet and after sanguinary fighting drove them still further and with their musketry and artillery fire compelled them to fall back to their second line of works.Even the Angelinians advanced higher up the slo e slope and opened fire upon one of the Glandelinian batteries with such effect that it had to withdraw, and fresh brigades of troops also advanced , cleared the Glandelinians away, and refi reinforced the troops who had captured captured the position.

A desperate ad and bloody fight raged in the woods, and one of the christian shells started a new forest fire that raged away from the battle lines fortunately.But the defense by the glandelinians still continued, untill general Hanson Salter repulsing a desperate counter attack of the foe, and reinforced by two divisions drove the enemy from the second line of trenches and captured the position.This desperate conflict along a six mile front had last ed four hours.

While it was going on Herdrude led with the help of the telephone and telegraph over twenty million men against the centre and the left,,, of the Glandelinian position, advancing as usual in the most heavy columns.

Just as this was seen advancing to make it more harder Cannonia discovered the Abbiennnians under the more dreaded enemy the christian Beppo Evans advancing.He sent off another dispatch to general Myletze asking him to hurry andcome.The christian columns poured down the hills in immense waves their attack covered by a terrific shell fire upon the glandelinian position opposed to the..The slaughter along Andons Glandelinian division was immeasureable, but the artillery suported them and although the Zimmermannian and Mic- Hollestinian troops were shaken by the force of the attack they still stood their ground desperately..But the christian advance was irrestible.It reached the dip of the valley and ascended the slopes tward the Glandelinian division and threw out clouds upon clouds of ki skirmishers and infantry columns and between these and the light troops of the foe the firing at once began in a perfect steady uproar and increased in tremendous volum volume as the christians nearest neared the advanced position of Cannonias center.This christian onslaught was a dozen times more fierce and horrible than the whole horror of the battle or the Nurne.The divisions of Dunner drove out the glandelinian troops from the heights of Angles but reinforcements arived from the Omarian line, and temporarily the christians were in turn expelled with great loss.The other three immense christian columns advanced steadily with three hundred light artillery in sore intervals between them.Bernard Dunns divisions attacked the foe at Gertrudes Farm and in spite of the gallent resists resistance of the Mungaboos and Zimmermannians made its way into the glandelinian position and drove the foe back.Another division pushing along the other side of the railroad were met by the fire of two Corps of the Mic- Hollestinian divisions who occupied immense send pits there but their heavy and accurate fire could not check the christian advance, while the other four divisions moved straight against the part of the crest held by Beppo Evans division. The men of the Abyssinkilian Concentinian Divisions as soon as fire was opened upon them, lost all order; and rushed forward as fast as men taking to their hel heels in cowardly retreat, amid yells and execrations upon the enemy attacking wildly and blindly the divisions of Camps and Coogans behind .It was impossible to stop these wild Abyssinkilians.The glandelinian artillery opened up fiercely trying to arrest the wave, the fire mowed men down by hundreds as fast as hundreds could come up, but nothing could stop them, the enemy were forced to cease fire because the guns grew too hot, and the Abyssinkilians yelling and screaming fiercely fairly ran over the guns, men and horses, plying the bayonet savagely and rushed down the valley and through the villiage of St Gertrude driving the Glandelinians in crazy panic before them.No won der the Glandelinians feared the dangerous Winkis Abyssinkilians. Beppo Evans divis o division was now left alone to bear the brunt of the christian attack.

The battle of the day before gad had terribly thinned its ranks, and Beppo Evans full division now did not hardly count to one million men.He however had formed the whole in line and prepared to resist the charge of thirteen million christian infantry besides heavy masses of Munchkin and Winkie cavarly who were pressing forward having in spite of a stout and desperate resistance driven in the forces defending the sand pits and other positions above it. As the columns therefore rushing on neared Beppo Evans lines, the fire from the christian batteries in that locality suddenly ceased their own troops now serving as a screen to the Glandelinians.The heads of the column however rushed on like a blackish purple wave deploying into line as they did so. Beppo Evans seized the moment and gave the signal for his men to openfire. The glandelinian troops opened with grape andcannistdr canister though the advancing troppa were but thirty yards away.A treondous volley ofmusketry was poured into them, and the machine guns also opened and the Abyssinkilians went down in drovas.The scene was frightful, the men fell by many hundreds as fast as they rushed forward to the works, and twix twice a whole line went down that extended more than a mile, but the surviving glandelinians cou could not reopen with some of their bigger guns that should hurl a storm of grape and canister, even throwing grenades did no godd, the christians could not be checked, and though the last time they were mowed down in a whole division, the rest fiercely rushed forward with dreadful Indian like yells, sore scrambled through the double hedge and other rows of brush that seperated them from the glandelinians and p poured in an irrestible wave upon the trenches and fell upon the Gladelinians with the bayonet.The charge though suffering immeasureable loss was irrestible, as a tornado.Even when reinforcements arived for the Glandelinians they were taken in the very act o f deploying, the very numbers of the Zimmermannins told against them, and with the Munchkins hurling forward like a screaming cyclone the glandelinians though fighting desperately were borne headlong and pellmell down the slope in confusion.

A Glandelinian general struck on the head by a bullet fell dead, and general Camp assumed command only to also be killed, and the Glandelinian division was without a commander while the irrestible christians followed up the fierce attack and continued to drive the enemy under Beppo Evans down the hill.Dow despite it all the enemy might have had some chance to rally but at the height of the insane uproar and melee Beppo Evans was unhorsed so suddenly that he was disabled by the fall and was brought to the rear thus the loss demorilizat ing the gland Glandelinians still more.In the meantime the Glandelinian Hobbonite cavarly was approaching in powerful waves of horsemen as swift as cossacks, these horsemen having passed the North Bend of Sanitary Creek and almost cut to pieces a christian Abyssinkilian Battalion which was advancing to reinforce the attackers.At this moment General Sandorn Baldwin led the Munchkin and dreaded Concentinian and winkie Cavarly divisions against the dangerous Hobbonites and the"elite of the cavarly of the two foes met with an immeasureable shock, but the wight, numbers, and impetus of the more heavier and fierce christian horsemen aided by the fact too that they were descen ding the hill and supported by the strong bodies of the "frightful "Domdobian and Triponligonloan Cavarly and dragoons, while their Glandelinian foes had hardly had time to recover their formation after cutting up the Abyssinkilian Battalion proved irrestible, and the Hobbonites were quickly driven down the hill.General Baldwin was killed shot through the heart, but his troopers pressed on, and a most desperate and insane han d to han d fight took place, and it was here too that general Francis Gump Andrews in the frightful melees lost two of his best cavarly leaders and was wounded himself so bad that he died from loss of blood.

While the Domdobian, and other christian cavarly and infantry now again covered by their guns persued the retreating Glandelinians down the slope and across the farms, the Abbiesnnian Royals, the Commencian cavarly and the Night Riders or "Hooded Terror" and other bodies of Munchkins rode to aid Hansonias army in its own adv n advance, which had been temp orarily checked by the resistance of four Corps of general Painers Mic-Hollestinians and Hobbonite infantry.Hansonia rode along at the front of his line calling upon his men to advance steadily.The enemy recoiled across a railroad line con tinuing delivering their fire with telling effect,and Hansonia was wounded in the hand and lost his horse.The Glandelinians were reinforced under Blain Nightlinger Handon and the enemy waited untill the christians approached within half the distance and then pouring in a volley that shattered the advance of the christian line counter charged with leveled bayonet but met total annihilation and Blainnightlinger Handon was killed.The remainder of the Glandelinian column under general Warbucks Frenchie stood firm but then too their general was shot down, and his staff annihilated; the christians pressing on like a moving wall of stone burst in among them and reduced such a big number of glandelinians to a mere handful during the frightful bayonet fight.Two christian generals were killed, and ten wounded, but the soldiers did not halt, and to make it more irrestible at this moment general Oliver Warbucks heavy Concentinian cavarly came up at the thundering gallop and pouring through the inv intervals of the christian troops and divisions, fell upon the Glandelinian infantry while Warbucks Abyssinkilian infantry somehow unseen had gotten in from the rear. In vain the enemy endeavored to keep their formation, they massacred whi whole lines of advancing christians and raged at them like lions, their front was burst in, their center penetrated and their rear despersed, and in five minutes the great column of Glandelinians was a mass of panic stric e stricken fugitives.Great numbers officers and men were killed, and two million prisoners taken.

While Warbucks division of troops secured the prisoners taken by the cavarly and sent them to the rear, the cavarly themselves continued the charge. In vain eq Warbuk Warbucks ordered the buglers to sound the halt.Carried away by the excitement of their success, and also of that caused by the scenes of flood and other disasters they had witnessed---an excitement in which even tye the horses shared--the immense cavarly waves gallopped on make a noise like an earthquake and cyclonic storm at the same time.The A Abbiesnnian Royals under Mic-Giveney fell upon two Mangaboo Corps divisions counter advancing in long line formation, broke them, and cut them up terribly one captured six of their generals, and disp ersed them as if to the four winds. The Munchkins also fell on two Glandelinian Zimmermannian line divisions shattered them with their charge, cut through entirely almost surrounding them and took great numbers of prisoners, whole brigades runningup a hill and surrendering to the infantry in order to escape the terrible"Hooded Terror."

The christian cavarly were now terribly excited but retained their unwonted formation, the enemy was frightfully scattered, the christian cavarly were far down the va lley as w ere the Dragoons, and the enemy recoiled in as frightful a panic as school children would when the place is afire and theyr

and their escape is cut off.....The Concentinian cavarly were still fiercely engaged with the Glandelinians opposed to them, for these although driven back with unusual loss were fighting dogedly.The Domdobian Dragoons who were supposed to be held in reserve had galloped ahead and joined Oliver Warbucks immense squadrons and the two divisions of heavy Winkie Abyssinkilian cavarly under Watson had driven the enemy cavarly far away from all support, while the powerful christian infantry had rushed on to aid them.When they reached the bottom of the rise a tremendous fire was poured from a series of cok compact corps of Glandelinian infantry and manypieces of cannon on the left into the fierce Abbiesnnian R y.Royals, Munchkins, and Calverinians, and a fresh column of Glandelinian cavarly under Luckwick Baldwin advanced fiercely against them. The christian batteries however had supported the charge, and seeing the enemy reinfo reinforced and rallying opened up in all directions, and the Glandelinians almost destroyed in all their numbers by this annihilating fire fell back in great confusion, and their Omarian Curds which had resisted the Domdobian charge recoiled also with heavy loss, and the Glandelinian cavarly had their horses completly jaded with their long galloped across the heavy hard ground during their dreadful headlong retreat.General Hindorning and Gladerlinias divisions had fared however better than the Winkies and others on the left for they having as yet encountered no infantry fire from the enemy had charged up the hill almost unapposed untill level with the Glandelin ian guns when turning sharp to the north by west they swept along the line like a surge annihilating the artillery men, and even when suddenly charged by a will of Turmeranians and Hobbonites on horseback, and when a rebel infantry threatened their line of retreat broke through nevertheless and after it seemed that every man fought hand to hand a bloody duel the Angelinian and Calverinian Glandelinian troops came up on the rush to their assistance and the Hobbonites and Turmeranians were cut up and thrown into confusion.General Packers of the Loyal Glandelinians was killed but ridding through the Turmeranian infantry columns these christian cavarly fell upon the Glandelinian cavarly and infantry combined and rolled them over with the fury of their charge and then charged another score of Glandelinian brigades of Mungaboo infantry and checked and destroyed their counter advance. Christian and Glandelini n horse were now mixed up together in a hellish encounter, the shock was dreadful and a fresh body of Calverinian cavarly comingup drew drove the enemy down that portion of the hill with greater loss----they being saved indeed from total destruction by the Glandelinian Mic-Hollestinian Eleventh Corps who comingup at last had kept their formation even though shaken and shattered by the christian atta k attack.General Blain Hedds of the Mic-Hollestinians was killed, and Andrew Gumpers wounded, and the latters brother Bimmer Gump the colonel general of the 12th Corps severely wounded and left on the battlefield.

While this wildly desperate fight had been raging on the centre and left, fresh columns ad had advanced from Beppo Evans(christian) and Andrew Grains Abyssinkilian division against the glandelinian right, a h and had after obstinate fighting furious beyond description and the losses fearful captured all the farms, orchards and a Glade, and two miles of railroad tracks and a railroad yards of Victory Noll Town and surrounded the town fin ally pouring through, and a wild cyclonic counter charge of the Glandelinians was repulsed by a fresh Corps of troops who moved down the slope to the assistance of their hardly pressed but victorious comrades..Then for a little while the fierce fi h fighting sl slackened but the artillery duel raged as fiercely as ever.The gunners on both sides had now got the exact range and the carnage and the destruction was terrible.The Angelinian shells set the inflamable portions of the enemys positions and the villages on fire, started up new blazes among the forests, tore up the ground in the farms in frightful eruptions and almost created darkness from the smoke.All the badly wounded Glandelinians who had been carried inside the town of Victory Noll perished in the flames.

At the end of an hour fresh christian columns of attack moved against the second line of positions at Victory Noll while at the same moment fourty immense squadrons of cavarly moved across the valley toward the Mic;-Hollest inian position.The Glandelinian batteries played upon them with round shot, shrpanle shrapnell, and high explosives and gang shells and as they came near with grape and canister creating dreadful losses but the horsemen and infantry came on and at a steady trop trot and run ariving within fourty yards of the Glandelinian position when with a shout the whole force moved forward like a long cloud, and in a moment the whole of the position and the advanced batteries of the enemy were in theirpossession the enemy artillery men however having stood to their guns to the last mom nt moment and then had run for shelter behind the third and last line ofpositions.The christian cavarly however paused for

a single moment in aston ishment at the sight that now met their eyes.They had believed that the Glandelinians were broken and disorganized but no sooner had they rushed over the slope than they saw the glandelinian armies drawn up in long thick lines bristling with b ayonets and standing calm and immovable. The artillery of both sides had for the time ceased their fire and a strange dead silence had succeeded the terrible earsplitting din that had raged so long before without a pause.Then with a deafening shout the christian cavarly again charged but in no case could they dash against the long hedges of bayo ets bayonets from which a storm of rifle fire was now pouring.Gatbling and smaller machine guns added to the storm.Breaking into many squadrons they rode through the intervals between the positions and completely enveloped them and then charged them, supported by a brigade of grenadiers who hurled a storm of exploding horror and finally drove them back and down the hill.The Nationals then reiceveing reinforcements again e advancing following the success and hurling a seco nd line of the enemy back.While thiswas going on, the battle was still raging round the big salient in Red Riding Hood Woods against which a portion of Vivianennas division had advanced so fiercely, but the Glandelinians in the second line ofposition s had resisted as stubbornly as bulldogs before they retired and now for a time the region nearest Sanitary Creek was clear of the enemy.

N' ow for a time the battle languished, and then general vivianis brought up fourty seven fresh brigades of cavarly, and these with the remains of many of those who had before charged with such unusal success rode against the other foe positions the infantry following.They swept on and passed over the enemy positions and the enemys fire could not succeed in checking them.The position was indeed a singular one and Vivianis had ordered his infantry to advance in the rear of the cavarly all the time and therefore the issue of the day for the enemy under Cannonis could not change, and he wondered with great anxiety why Mylets did not come to his aid.In all appearance the Abbiannians were now becoming full masters of the position.Their masses of cavarly his the Glandelinian positions from sight.The Glandelinian cavarly too now were far too weak to charg e and most of the guns, and batteries were in the possession of the christians, and two lines of works, the reserve infantry that Cannonis could rely on were too far away and after sustaining the fire of the christians for a long time the Glandelinian cavarly were forced to draw off. General Bruno Angle even ordered the Angelinian light horse cavarly who had not been engaged yet to charge, and they turned and rode off tward the right, and made m v movements that was playing Cannonias lastpositions in dire peril.General Adams brigades were now brought up from the reserve but could not drive back the christian cavarly and infantry of the Angelinians.On the other side John Hanley sent a column against Cannonias troops stationed not far from his headquarters.The Glandelinians made a gallent and stubborn stand but they were cut off from all help, outnumbered, and were altogether without a munition, and although they defended themselves with their bayonets and grenades and machin e gun nests to the end, they were slain almost to a man, and this position was also captured.Seeing that even beyond this the Abbiannians would advance, Cannonia took shelter elsewhere and sent column after column to move forward and repell the attack but they were all each beaten back.

It was now nearly two locko oclock in the afternoon, and the Abbis Abbiannians were engaging Huebaum Mic-Whirther at St Anns, Cannonis having sent him to a rrest the progress of the Christians in that direction.Their effort had been a terrible one.Huebaum Mic-Whirther was always a terrible and excellent fighter, his men were hardy experienced veterans of many wars but they could do nothing.They in counter charging had to traverse countrysides and over roads with their columns torn to pieces by shell and sprah shraplenn shrapnell, the men were up to their ankles in mud left by the floods guns and gun carriages stuck fast, and it was not untill after most tremendous efforts with shot and shell tearing through their ranks like hail that the leading forces of their troops passed through the Red Riding Hood woods and came in view of the frightful battle wa that was raging.

It was then past two oclock and another hour passed before any considerable number of infantry arived.But the christian forces pressed on.General Cannonis then sent other troops to help Huebaum.Here too it was a terrible battle, Huebaums line was aflame like a volcanic fissure eruption, and he was able for a time to resist their advance destroying whole lines of christian troops but as fresh A troops of zAbbiannians came up from the rear the christians began to win their way forward through that hell, and general Cannonis was obliged to send two more divisions to check them but in vain.

Seeing that Mylets was not respodresponding to his anpe l appeal he now observed that all was lost unless he could before the whole of vivianias arm army arived break down the onslaught of general Hardrude. He had to do something for during a lull the christian generals were preparing for a final effort. Hinderniss was massing forth all his infantry, and advancing past St Ann had fallen upon the centre of Huebaum Mic-Whirthers army, and also overlapping his left flank was rolling the whole Glandelinian army over and over .The Other main mass of Calverinians from Bengall State who had been up to this time held in reserve was passing St Ann to the west and was flanking the rest of Huebaums line and the cavarly were following in support.General Cannonis massed all his supports to the defense.To make it worse for him an artillery fire more heavy and terrible than before for the guns of the christian reserves had been brought up at all points opened upon the Glandelinians, and the enemys lines were melting away fast.But so far no more reinforcements could be sent to them for the whole of Cannonias Glandelinian army was now in full general action, and the Cmerians were either annh annihilated or had been driven pellmell from the field.Every christian gun was brought to the front the remains of the strong c avarly hurled forward, and some of Vivianias troops now advancing to the left the enemy forces were brought there to the center to aid in the defense of the threatened points.Just as these arrangements were completed the enemy advanced in tremendous force to the support of Cannonia but the christian fire so completly mastered that of the remnants of the Glandelinian infantry that their light guns were finally brought up to within a hundred yards of the rebel line, and opened with grape upon the positions.Two Mangaboo divisions were almost annihilated, and the Cmerian troops had long ceased to exist.A Glandelinian Gargoylian cavarly Brigade that had Hitherto fought so gallently lost heart and would have instantly retreated had not the other troops behin d them b prevented them from doing so.In the meantime the Imperial goard of Abbiannians in ten heavy columns led by vivianis himself were advancing the troops being followed by every availabie man of infantry and cavarly.One of these columns carried the battle sector of the Red Riding Hood Woods the others moved against the remainder of Cannonispositions.They pressed forward untill they reached the farms and three hundred small cannon were brought up and unlimbered while the artillery on the opposite slopes rained sheiland shrophell u on upon the foepositions a d and artillery.The enemy guns tried in vain to answer them they were entirely overmatched.Guns by scores were dismounted, horses and men dest o destroyed as thick as grain, explosions tore every thing away, and the dense columns of christians reached the works and poured a most tremendous volley at close quarters, fell on the flank of the position broke it, and hurled it down the hill.The Consentin ian infantry threw themselves upon Cannonias flank, the advancing troops in front swept its head with their volleys of musketry and machin e gus, and as the enemy lines broke and retired Vivianis gave the orders for the men to break into proper lines, and they did cheering wildly and ascended the remainder of the position.The Glandelinian retreat became a rout, cavarly and infantry fell upon them the artillery christian and captured piled them with a dreadful fire, the Angelinians poured down upon their flanks.By five oclock the splendid well boasted army of the "Red Shadow" was a mass of disorganized fugitives.

On this awful day for many dreadful hours the battle raged, and thw two other wings of Cannonias army was still holding and the battle growing worse. To the men of the Glandelinians who had to withstand the dreaded christian assault these hours indeed seemed a lifetime.

"When shall we get at the christian do s dogs!!!!""""cried one.

"when s all we get at them!"was the constant cry of many officers.

No one couldvtell the shells swept their ranks, and their strongest position on top of the crest and behind their crest was in a situation so that at times they could not even see their christian enemies.Nothing is harder than to sufer in facing both a t artillery fire, andinfantry attacks without sbatement at the same time and the efforts of the officers were principally directed to appasing the i,patience and fear of their men.

"Our turn to counter charge will come presently lads." was their cry.

"But who among us will be alive when it does come with those christian dogs attacking like hells legions"to query was made which no officer could find word to answer as hour by hour the ranks melted away before attack and christian gun fire, and whole regiments were destroyed.Although they kept a cheerful face and spoke hopefullly to the men it seemed to all the enemy officers themselves that the prospect was wll night hopeless.Cannonia too had r predicted that there would be nearival of Mylets that day. His army

had mustered o over onlyone half their strength when the second day of the battle began and Cannonia would have been happy to avoid it, but vivienia would not do ist.Even goodportions of zimmermannian bdivisions should have fought in the second line of defenses this awful da y but the disaster to the Chmarians and Mangaboos in front of them, had placed them in the front,, and therefor e upon these sections of Cannonias sadly depleted forces the br n brunt of h the christian assault had fallen and as the lines grew thinner and thinner it seemed even to the officers that the end must come before long and that the whole Clandelinian armymust retreat.

"This cannot last at all"one of the generals had said when the afternoon had arived."These christian dogs will never beat us, but we will be annihilated here if aid does not com soon.I don't wonder the men are so impatient. We bargained for square fighting in the woods and pl i plains but I never reckoned on standing for hours, or being driven from place to place for hours and be so badly exposed to be shot at without even a chance to reply and not to even see our foes."

It was just after this that the Consentinian infantry and cavarly burst upon Cannonias left wing but this cheered rather than depressed the glandelinian soldiers.For a time because of this they were now free from the christian artillery fire and now had a chance for active work.Thus as the fire flashed from the glandelinian works the men even laughed and joked and it was with great regret that they saw even their own cavarly fall back before the charge of the Angelinians for they knew that the moment this screen was removed the artillery of the christian works would open again.....

Cannonias chief sensation was that of wonder that he himself was left alive so overwhelming was the din so inues sant the uproar of battle, the yellings of the combatants, the noise of the crashing shrapnell explosions and all the other confused sound of battle that it seemed to him a marvel how any one could even remain alive within its range.Almost mechanically he would repeat the orders"Close up.Close upvq as the troops dwindled and dwindled from divisions into brigades and from brigades into regik regiments, and regiments almost into nothing.He long as impatiently as his men for the advance of his superior Mylstze and would have gladly charged against impossible odds rather than remain so dreadfully exposed under fire, and his troops always recoiling before the sledge ha mer hammer on slaughts of the christians.Just as the storm of fire came that told of the advance of the christians at all points broke out h he had to give the orderto the whole line to yeild and give ways. Then just as the enemy recoiled a bullet struck general Francis Hansonia high up on the right arm. Then a high explosive crashed close and he was rendered unconscious by the shock and his horse was mangled.It was late at night when he recovered his senses.Fires not a camp fires but conflagrations made by battle were burning at various points along the ridge for now the victory of the christians was complete and the Nationals were inpossession of the foes recentpositions, and the Consentinian cavarly had taken up the persuit as far as it was safe. parties were with the help of the light from the conflagrations were taken up and collecting the wounded.General Hansonia of the christians wound that his head was being supported and that a hand was pouring spirits and water down his throat.However it seemed that the hand was a shaky one and that its owner was loudly weeping.As the general opened his eyes the man broke i to a torrent of thankful words.

"Is that you Evans?"

"Yes it is your honor.

"Is the battle over?"

"I hope so but it is just now.The glandelinian armies under the Red Shadow are miles away, and our cavarly at their heels.But general vivienia dreads the fact that Mylstize will come to morrow and make an effort to recover the lost ground."

"What has happened to me Evans?"

"Well youare shot a bit in the arm, but it is only a bullet wound and it will turn out all right.You were knocked down by the shock of a shelll explosion explosion."

It was well for general Hansonia that before the order of advance had been general that a bullet had hit him for as he fell one of the surviving suegeons of the nearest regiment quickly attended to him and had fixed a tourniquet about his arm, tied the arteries and roughly bandaged it.Had he been not instantly seen the general would have bled to death in a very few minutes. Bepso Evans now called to some of the parties who were movin g about with stretchers.General Hansonia was lifted onto it and carried to the village

of St Patricks, where he was placed in an ambulance wagon , and which startes for the rear of the christian lines.The fighting evidently now was over and Evans saw to it that the generals orderly accompanied his master.The route of Cannonias army had been so dreadfully disasterous and complete that it was not thought probable any serious opposition could be offered to the continued advance of the christians unless Mylstze came up and intended to rage the battle again to rd recover his lost ground.The general suffered from exhaustion rather than pain during the journey to the rear but now did not lose his senses.In twenty minutes the ambulance stoppedat a handsome tent .He was carried in and placed in a bed.The orderly proceeded to remain there at the advice ofone of the doctors. A few minutes later two surgeons entered the tent and ex examined the generals arm.They agreed at on ce that the wound was not even half as serious as believed at first for they had a vague fear that they would have had to perform an operation and to cut it off.They only found that the nerves were only numbed with the shock they have had, but everth everything would turn out better later on .The general was not in any danger and was told he could resume his command on the morrow."

Mylstze however did arive at night.Even at the middle of the night the very earth booms as if all the world was going to fly into space.Heavy shell fire fell dreadfully upon the positions captured by the christian s and the soldiers fled to the rear.They could from the din distinguish shells of every make and calibre.Trenches heave, the night roar and flashes as if the world was coming to an end and the noise was c ahreplitting.Even the officers of the ch istians look at each other in the momentary flashes of dazzling lights and with pale faces and pressed lips shake their heads. Indeed the shelling was fierce and every soldier was aware of the heavy shells tearing down the parapets, vrooting up the embankments, and demolishing the very trees themselves.When one of the shells landed in a forest they would note how the hollow fur ous blast sounded or appeared like the blow from the paw of a raging glangiplomenann Creature.The explosions of dreadful mines mingles with gun fire and artillery on both sides.That was the most dreadful and demanting convulsion of all.The whole region where they went became one whole grave.One man had been twice flung over the parapet by the blasts of the explosions without getting any more harm than temporary shell shock.The bombardment of Mylstzes guns never slackened, and it was allowing the shells to fall in the rear too while the uproar of the christian gun s was maddening.As far as one can see shell explosions spoits fountains of fire and black smoke, and the officers could observe that the whole christian territory was being raked as fiercely as a region by shellfire in the world war.The bombardment finally slackened for a time, and a dreadful wave of attack came.It was repulsed with great slaughter, it was like a hundred thousand Picket's charge s at Gettaybug put into one.The christian trench was almost gone during the attack but the assault was finally broken up and swept back.Mountains of earth were hurled up by great explosions. shells landed squarely near general vivianns headquarters just as the officers came up and reported that the enemy was repulsed.The soldiers were all calm and the officers declared that an attempt willvbe made to bring up a general attack upon Mylstze in the morning.This sounded more encouraging.No officer yet befoe had thought this could be done.The horrors of the night seemed absolutely unbearable.No one could sleep but stared ahead of themselves and dozed.Toward the early morning while it was still dark there was again an unspeakable horror.The enemy rush forward to make an overwhelming attack in three monsterous waves.Torches and conflagrations lighted up the scene of confusion.Everyone on both sides yelled frightfully and committed dreadful slaughters with musketry fire and the bayonet and now the madness and despair of many hours unloaded itself in this our burst of the battle.Faces were distorted and for a time the enemy threatened to w win.But the fury of the onslaught exhausted them, their losses were dreadful.To make the situation worse the s sticky close at-sphere worked more than ever especially on the nerves of the foe for the bombardment is returned with greater effect upon them.Suddenly a broadside of shells howl and shriek like a tornado and flashes terribly in a wall of shooted flame and rolling smoke everything seems to go up into the air in great eruptions.The glandelinian batteries here ar were laid low. Then with the approach of day the explosions and roar of the very christian cannon ceased.The shelling too of the christians continued but had lifted and fell behind the glandelinian positions, and their trenches seemed to be free of all shell fire.Then came the christian attack in all its madness now against Mylstze whose troops had arived in the evening.No one could have believed that this howling inferno could survive.The storming troops of the christians could be seen coming in an enormous extensive wave.All the Glandelinian artillery opened with a tremendous roar and machine guns rattled and droned and the rifles made a tremendous noise as often mention ed before.

.The charge of the christian troops however pressed on.The Glandelinian shell guns hurl a perfect storm as fast as they can load and firbut the christian again cannot be checked.The Glandelinians now could recognize the distorted faces, and knew they were the Angelinians by their high purple peaked Hunchkin hats.They had already suffered heavily but they had reached the remnants of the new positions formed by the works of nature.A whole line ten miles long had gone down before the glandelinian machine guns, but some of the artillery are blown up by the covering fire and the survivors of the fun furious christians came nearer.One of the Angelinian officers with his face upturned fell into a mud puddle.,is body collasped and his hands remained stretched forward and only his hands with the stumps of his arms shot off hang on a fence.The Angelinians pressed on, their charge again was irresistible.

And then the moment the ,landelinians were about to retreat, three waves of Abbissannian troops rose up from the ground in front of them and for one awful hour the whole slaughter whirls like a cyclone round the ,landelinian officers trying to hold their men steady but nothing can be done, the one christian enemy were upon the works, and with their ranks torn to bits the glandelinian survivors almost in panic made for the rear. The ,landelinian as machine guns however w re firing from the nextposition,and the glandelinians had to fight while they retreated as the christians burst among them with the bayonet.

It seemed that the men of both sides had become hundreds and hundreds of thousands of wild beasts in f fierce desperate death struggles.The glandelinians now were not fighting, they were defending themselves desperately against entire annihilation.It did not seem to them the that they were using their bayonets against men in this moment when Death with hands and fierce faces and purple coats were hunting them down, and the glandelinians feel felt a mad fierce anger .They while retreating for the second works resisted madly desto destroying and killing to save themselves, one be revey vrevenged. They crouched behind every object of protection, behind every brush every barrier, and the chri glandelinian artillery hurled beams of explosives at the very feet of the adv n advancing Angelinians blowing thousands of men to bits for every discharge.The blasts of the shells impinges powerfully on the arms and legs of the enemy, c and they crouching like cats ran on overwhelmed by this wave of christian attack that bore them irrestibly along, that filled the glandelinians with great ferocity turning them into murderers again into terrible devils, and this wave of horror in purple multiplied the r and multiplied their strength with fear and terrible madness and greed of life too seeking and fighting for nothing but to avoid annihilation.

The glandelinian trenches now had been abandoned.A section of the christian wave was blown to pieces, annihilated by the Glandelinian shells, they were in the advance still coming in only in broken bits of lines.The christ ian losses increased and this time general ,ivianin could not account for s c such desperate resistance on the part of the glandelinians.

The fighting rages now as if the legions of hell were let loose on the earth and fought one another.At last the ,Glandelinians readh a trench that was guarded by a new line of troops and the ,landelinian gun finally opened up in full blast and finally began to check and cut off the christian attack.

The christian line behind the retreating foe wavers and stops advancing. The ,landelinian officers watched for the signal and when it came they gave the order, and the glandelinians now reinforced break forward in a wild run. An officer of the rank of a colonel had his head torn off just as he started forward with his regiment.He continued to run a few steps more however while the blood spouted from his neck like a fountain.for a moment it did not now come much to hand to hand fighting, for the Angelinians were driven back.The Glandelinians arived again at their shattered works drove the Angelinians from it in a pellmell attack and passed on beyond it.Again the enemy plunged into the unspeakable horror.The glandelinians now continued to sweep forward madly savage and raging,, they kill as if only on h n hun tinge. .In the fury of the counter attack all resembled an inferno.A young Angelinian soldier was seen to lag behin , behind he was overtaken he was seen to put up his hands, and in one he still held a revolver and a blow from a spade carried by a rebel officer cleaved through his face.A second Angelinian soldier tried to run further, but got a bayonet jabbed into his back.He leaped into the air, his arms thrown wide his mouth wide wide open, and yelling he staggered while the bayonet in his back stillll quivered.Another threw away his rifle covered down with his hands before his eyes.He was dispatched the enemy yelling no quarter.suddenly in the wild pursuit the glandelinians reached the christian lines being so close on the heels of the retreating Angelin ians that the foe reached it almost at the same time as they did.The reinforcing line opened up a storm machine guns barked by the hundreds and the first wave of glandelinians was destroyed.Everywhere the musket musketry were spitting, the other glandelinian wave presses on and almost carry the works.

A Glandelinian officer strikes his sabre into the neck of a gigantic Angelinian soldier while the lines of troops coming up ducked behind a long line of captured breastworks for a few minutes, then pressed on clearing the other works in a hurry.The earth shuddered from the crash of the battle, the pursueing enemy stumble over slippery lumps of flesh over yeilding bodies one man even fell down into an open belly.The fighting then began to seize the Angelinians had retreated back to the former work they had carried.The Glandelinian officers however realized they could not stay there long but must retire to their own positions under cover of their artillery before the christians would gather charge and come on in overwhelming numbers.The Glandelinians got back pretty well.An hour passed all was now silent and there seemed to be no further attack by the christians though there was considerable desultory firing.All the glandelinians lay for two hours panting and resting before any one s poke they being so completely played out that in spite of their hunger having missed breakfast they did not think of the provisions. It seemed evidently that the frightful battle was over.

But Mylotze was not be to be undone. At eight oclock the evening before he had during his advance arrested the confused retreat of general Cannonins army as fast as he could and had sent other portions of his army to stop the christian advance and cover Cannonias, thus the reason Hunbeun Mic-Whirther had been in action, though of no avail.

Mylotze was determined to recover the entire lost ground if possible. If he couldn't succeed his campaign (thanks to Cannonia) would be delayed seriously, and a great disaster would be the consequences.

After the repulse of the christian assault of h the morning of August the eighth Mylotze waited a while, and then at about ten Thirty brought up the whole of Leo Costellios divisions of Zimmermannians, and sent forth Heddas normous column of Mic-Hollestinians and Omarian Curdes suported by heavy artillery and cavarly under Sandorn and Luckwick Baldwin.

The whole scon moved forward to the attack. Mylotze was determined to crush the christian too if possible, and the assault was lauched with such great fury and power that the Christian troops and their generals were astonished.

The main christian batteries left behind on the hills during the successes of the days before, had during the night been brought up to the captured positions and placed into proper position so as to infilade all approaches to the newly formed christian lin es.

For a good length of time Mylotzes assault was a complete success.The Glandelinians strove so hard and so desperately that the works in the advance were in possession of the Glandelinians. But for their success their losses were awful.Men had fallen in whole brigades, and every division had lost its commander.The christian fire had swept all before it, tore up all the very beauties of nature, and started great fires.Again and again the enemy rushed forward in great waves in their desperate efforts to storm and take the other works but the waves of men were swept away.It was utterly impossible for the Glandelinians to face that annihilating fire and live.Even the fire softly and yet the Glandelinians had tried to move against it. Mylotzes batteries could not be brought up in the proper position to support the charge because of the nature of the hills, and though he tried to rely on his machine guns, they would not reach the ran e of the christian positions. The bloody horror kept up untill noon, and then gradually deminished as the remainder of the Glandelinian columns receded. The lull lasted only half an hour, and a flood of Angelinian troops hurled itself against the works captured by the Glandelinians supported by their terrific artillery fire. The glandelinians stood manfull to their work,s hurling back two of the fiercest christian assaults pellmell, but their own men were rap idly being reduced b by the christian fire, and Mylotze had to sent supports to repell the christian onslaught.

However general K Hindernine turned the left wing of the Glandelin ian army under General Pierre and the works were finally recaptured and it seemed evident that Mylotzes efforts were of no avail.He hurled division after division to the support of the hard pressed Glandelinians and finally concentrated such a strong force that it was finally able to hold its ground till evening, when the Angelinians of their own accord withdrew from the captured works, and recoiled to those behind. The Glandelinians then taking advantage of the daylight remaining hurled forward in another tremendous onslaught of their own, but by dark was repulsed with unmeasureable loss and many commanders and regimental officers killed.

Thus the frightful three days battle of Sanitary Creek ended almost a draw.Of course the losses of both sides was beyond comprehension, but general Vivianis had gained considerable ground during his success, and was almost back near the farms of his own known as Richees farm, from which recently Myletze and Cannonia had succeeded in driving him.Myletze too wanted to renew the conflict on the following morning, but the christian armies were so massive, and their artillery in such positions as to make further fighting extremely dangerous t his officers opposed the plan so strongly that Myletze had to desist, and during the night he fell back to Richees's farm, where good parts of the army had to even camp in one foot of flood waters.

Myletze was enraged over it all, he blamed Cannonia for it, for acting against the christian armies without waiting for him to come back with his new reinforcements. Myletze did not say much so soon however as he had so much to do because of the disasterious consequences of the battle, but to save himself from being teased by Myletze over it, h Cannonia saw that he would have to make good, as soon as Myletzes main new army came up.

CHAPTER THIRTY.

STARTLING NEWS. NOT SO GOOD FOR THE CHILD SCOUTS.

"What I do you think is the best thing that can be done now Miss Glorinia?" James Zimmerman himself asked.

"I don't know she replied replied."With us being under fire I don't see how in the world we are going to get them over these rocks and on up to the top where they'll be dangerously exposed.And a slip or a fall would cost either of your wounded their lives and their limbs.Our loss I see have been heavy. therefore I don't see how it is to be managed.See that shell explosion!They are hurling high explosives tward us.And it is hard work for even a man to climb these rocks and how a litter is to be carried while we are under fire I don't know,and it'll be difficult work to get back to the raft.If it was not that we are so close to the for I should say we would need to built shelters for the wounded, but even then it would is tremendous business getting the materials down,and I don't think our retreat could be possibly managed untill night."

"I am sure it couldn't"said Penrod himself as he shok his head.I think though if we got two good strong branches of a pine tree and slung a piece of our army blankets between them we may possibly get our wounded girl leaders down to the raft.You see we have plenty of strong men to get them over the rough places and we know how to dodge the shells you know.what do we worry about high explosives.It 's shrapnell we got to look out for."

"We could manage that easy enough Penrod" saidone of the soldiers."There ad are some seventeen feet oars on the raft, and some cast away sails.We could easily rig up the stretcher.I suppose you mean to take all the wounded back on the raft Penrod."

"Yes that's what I reallly meat meant."Penrod said. "Then to avoid what the enemy would attempt to do we could push the raft off into some hidden cove."

"That would be an excellent plan "Glorinia said."Let us set about it at once before the oneny e return to attack us.Listen there must be an awful battle .Hear the noise!"

In a few minutes(the raft not being far) the soldiers brought up the improvised stretcher.

"I will go first."Gertrude Angeline said."As I am the heaviest and the most severely injured.So if someti something happens to me then the others will have to remain here.You will therefore see how you may manage to get me down while under fire.And if it is done easily you can bring down the rest of the wounded if not they better stop in the cave near by and on the ram orts for to night, and we can send many up to get them to morrow.By the way "James you had better direct the men and boys to get the dead comadres comades of ours carried out and taken down to the shore ad and landed on the rafttt. Have them laid downvin their tents if possible.Some of them too are our best men and we must be able to take them somewhere and give them a decent burial. During this work a number of men must be left in watfhi watching to cover us in case the enemy have a chance to launch an attack upon us."

"We shall need all the boys to row the boat."Penrod said."

Gertrude Angeline was now lifted into the stretcher and six boys carried her down to the waters edge.They managed it excellenctly and saftly easing her down with the greatest care possible over the rocks and succeeding in getting her down to the raft witho t without a single jerk.And evidently the enemy fdid not intend to fire upon them ither or had no chance to do so.Angeline Richee, and the rest of the wounded were then taken down in the same way while the men carried down the dead bodies of their fourty eight comrades who had fallen leaving the Glandelinian dead and wounded to be taken care of by their own comrades.

"I willtk take charge of all our wounded now,,,"""Penrod said."and see them careffuly hou housed in tents on the raft,,, and cared for.I suppose Glorinia will want to be the main doctor no need of sending for a doctor from the outside."

"Certainly we will nedd need a good man doctor."glorin ia said stepping into the boat thatwas to take her to the raft."I cannot do all the work, but I shall not give up charge of them untill he comes if you can get one."

"I shall come over and see you Gertrude"Penrod said,"as soon as I get the rest of our companies back on the raft.Shall I write a report of this by telegraph to Jennie murmer or do you feel equal to do so yourself.?"

"I will try to manage it Penrod.I can anyway dictate it if I don't feel like writing it or I can use the wireless phone or telegraph.There will be a good de l deal of excitement over this attack we made and no doubt many of the killed and wounded Glandelinians and the prisoner we got belonged to general Denis Cannonia so it wouldn't do to leave the raft without all the crews it has surviving before we get to some hiding place.Be be sure you have a strict guard put over our prisoner prisoner and keep an eye upon him yourself.While you are gathering the rest of the trooop you can send over to inquire about us.But till you have got all on board the raft you had not better leave this territory. If you meet with an attack hurry back.I shall dispat h dispatch my report to night and I will have Dolores Costellio sent some more to help you as soon as she too gets back to the raft."

The boat now pushed off.A sergeant and five men were told off to occupy with a full regiment of men the rocky shore untill time for the raft to push off to cover the parties retreating to the raft, and then with the Glandelinian prisoner, and the rescued men in their centre, the party climbed down the hicl and headed for the raftttt..When they got to the raft they found all the boys and girls in the greatest state of excitement.The soldier who had gone to fetch little Miss Glorinia had brought the news that a desperate fight had taken place with a portion of the enemy on the shore,, but he had not then been able to say whether any one of h the scout party had been killed or wounded. As soon as the smalllle detatchment returned with the prisoner,, and the rescued men in their midst,, many girls and boys seeing the wounded also brought in flocked round with cries and lamentations. George was assigned at once to take possession of the prisoner, and saw to it that the prison r prisoner was hand cuffed, the glandelinian soldier's legs also being securely bound.

Then he placed two sentries inside and on the outside giving them strick orders that the prisoner must not be allowed to make any escape..... The news that about fourty eight of the men had been killed soon spread, and many of the girl and boyscouts who did not see their friends among the wounded returning in and onto the raft, would have hurried off to the scene of action but Penrod issued strict orders, and would not permit any one to leave the ra t raft as it might bee too dangerous.

George Zimmermon informed Angeline Jennings,, and Gracedelinia that the dead men had all been or w re were being placed together on the shore and that their friends were at liberty to remove and bury them when it waw was safer to go on shore.He then asked Penrod to send a corporal over to bring back the rest of the wounded men and see how they were to be placed.But before his return Glorinia came back to the raft on shore, and Penrod came up to tell her.

"We have put our two girlscout officers in their own tent,,,"he said it"And Jane Melfort will lok after them so Glorin ia you d need not worry about them. The other wounded are in their own respectable tents.So you need not be under no wort worry about them or any uneasiness.As far as I can see they are all likely to do well.But I had advised Gertrude and Angeline too that if she wishes to retain the rest of her men she better keep out of engagements unless there is no other way out, or we'll soon be returning to Emperor vivians lines without an escpr escort and many even few of us even left....!!!!!!!"

Penrod had given orders, that the rescued men was not to be treated as a prisoner and he now told the boy sergeant to send the men to him.

"For a short time I have been thinking it over Mr Meldor"he said"And it seems the best plan to me will be a to allow you to go ashore at a safer spot so you can slip away.Your conduct in the fighting on the shore ih in itself showed that you were not voluntarily with the Glandelinians, even though you gave in to them what me we may term as a sort of cowardice, and I do not think therefore that it is necessary to report you among the prisoners.I suppose general Cannonia have gone on plans to drive general Vivianis away from Sanitary Creek so I hear."?

"Yes my boy.The glandelinian army advanced straight down here traveling at night and camping and sleeping by day.I do not believe he'll win.Myletze is too far away having gone after reinforcements."

"Very v well.It's good you have me that information.In that case too you cannot give much special evidence against the purpose of the "Red shadow." It is probable that the attack upon the christian armies may be required from the direction of St C r Gertrudes junction and as to the plans of that "Red Shadow had tried to accomplished, and it is possible that he may radieved recieve aid from s me some other place but I should think that the evidence of what may be resulting willl be sufficient.So if you will give me the location

of the refuggee camp I will tak it upon myself to let you go when we get to that district.In that case you xan join your wife and children and travel to a safer zone with them....."

"Thank you my boy."James Me ldor rep replied. "I have no objection at all to give evidence as to what I know concerning general Cannonias plans so that it does not come out it was my wife who told you where the Glandelinian positions were forming."

"You need not be afraid of that , James.Angelinia Aronburg our chief Cation gave her her word,,, that her name should not be mentioned, for she knows if the Glandelinians knew she told they would have her captured if they would have to hound h r from one and of the world to the other. At the same time I have no doubt she will claim for her the hundred pesuxos rw reward that was offered for any one giving the knowldge of Cannonias plans, and if she obtains it she will send it to you and no one will be any the wiserrr."

"I should not think it wise or good to take such money."James said."It might be dangerous."

"Not in ordinary cases." Penrod replied."But you see she did not speak out mainly to spoils the enemys plans, neither for the sake ofmoney or honor, or of making herself as a heroine but to get you out of their possession.And considering how much damage these Glandelinian armies have done and how much more they would do it is a very different case from that or an ordinary informer. Even you know we punsih ourselves any ordinary informer.Yet she did it to save you, and not spying on the enemy eitherr. None of even your friends or neighbors will know that she has anything to do with the rescue of you; therefore no one will be any the wiser,, and no doubt all that money will be very useful for you he and help you restore what the enemy had ruined on you. Besides for wh t the glandelinians have done to you and your home you sure deserve some sort of comp es cons compensation for also being dragged forcibly away from home and for the risk you ran in that fight, for you could have taken the chances of being shot down by the enemy for your taking a hand in the fight against them, had they a chance to do so.I know that if I were in your place and had lost my home because the enemy burned it done down I should accept it without the least hesitation.And now as I don't suppose the Glandelinians have left any mom money on you, and as your wife is not likely to be provided with money either I will give you five Guenias on account, and remember that we all shall always feel you deptor for the manner in which you you saved Gertrudew life by springing upon the Glandelinian just at the critical moment. "

"You will take it from the other money my boy."James said with some hesitation as he did not like to take it.

"Certainly I will if you say so.Yet you should even accept our gratitude for such a service you have renderes rendered us.Now if you will just give me the location of your refugee camp where your wife went to, I will make a note of it though I don't think it islikely at all yo will be wai wanted at any testimoney against the known plans of the enemy.The christian armies will mostly likely proceed again the "Red Shadow" and drive him away nefore Myletze comes to his rescue.Anyway it might be possible as the sound of battle is pretty lively by now."

CThe wounded were soonall aboard the raft, and then the remainder of the soldiers came abaord, the enemy fortunately having not committed any disturbance since. Two minutes later Mary Stanck and Jean Saunders came on boarddd.

"I congratulate you George"The latter said heartily to the German boy."We all feared the consequences of yo r b ing ordered to go with the others on that dangerous shore and now you will be getting no end of honor and credict and this will confirm your getting into the boyscouts all the betterr. Gertr Gertrude speaks in the strongest terms of you, and says that it was entirely to your pro ptness and courage that we succeeded in the dangerous undertaking and her life and that of Angeline Richoes saveddd. every one is so excited about it.The only bad part of the affair is that we will have to get out of this region, for if Cannonia should win the battle we'll get it good and hot ourselves for our attack."

"Oh I fancy we will see Vivienis come off victorious Jean, and that's good fun in a way though it involves a good deal of fighting and heavey losses."

"And how are Gertrude and Angeline Richoe getting along." Mary asked.

"Glorinia gave already a goood report about them and if you wish you can cover come over to their tent and see them"

"As the Glandelinian p i prisoner can speak German I am going to have you question th him."said Mary"and when we can reach the christian lines we'll hand him over to the army aurthorities or I will allow you to humble him take hi him before me eror vivian himself."

"I suppose I shall comeout straight ag in if I do?" George asked.

"I should think so, for with all this war business, and its great consequences, we need every one here to remain in case anything unusual happens.But of course you must report yourself to Gertrude and Angeline Richee and get orders for even if you are not commissioned as a boyscout you may serve as one for the present as you'll need the training.Here are the orders that Miss Angeline Jennings gave me to give to you.You are to be in main charge of the operations of the raft.You are to start early, make the raft go for twenty miles, halt for the night, and go on ag i again the first thing in the morning.And you must keep the raft at w quite a distance off shore.It is not likely that Glandelinians will persue the raft in boats to try to recapture the prisoner or that there will be any attempt on their part to rescue him but such things you know have happened before now.If we are attacked and anything of the sort should take place, and we find we are likely to get worsted your orfe orders are that you are not all to allow the Glandelinian prisoner be carried off alive.Pur put a fierce Abyssinkillan Winkie over him with instructions to shoot him rather than allow him to be taken away from him.Gertrude will hold you harmlessnss and not responsible.All those Glandelinian scoundrels have committeed too many massacres of children to be allowed to go free...."""""""""

"I understand" George said"and willlll carry out the orders,,and now I will go and see Gertrude and her friend at once, for it will be dinner time in aboutd another hour.George was glad to see or find that the two superior girlscout occifers were getting on better than even he had expected.Angeline richee was already up, with her ar in splints and a p great atch of plaster across her forehead. Gertrude was stillll in bed, and was likely to remain so for quite a long time.The regimental surgeon who had been found by some soldier was with the two wounded girls.

"I am am glad to see you George."Gertrude Angeline quite cheerfully."I was expecting you."The surgeon said, the christians are worsting the Glando linians who are the onesxattacked.None the worse for your own brush I hope?"

"Not a bit of it."George said."The bump on my head caused by the stone the glandelinian fool threw at me will hurt a little for a day ot or two.I am glad to see you and Angeline richee lookingso well:"

"Oh we will be all right very soon I assure you, though I am afraid I shall be kept on my back for quite a long while yet.Poor Angeline richee"she added winking one eye at george is ra h rather in despair because she is afraid her extreme beauty will be spoiled d for florinis the girlscout doctor said that cut on her forehead is likely to leave a nasty scar.Of course poor Angeline she would not mind it at all if it had been done by the sabre of some glandelinian cav cavarly man but to have gont it from tumbling down into a ravine troubles here badly.It will be very painful to herinddeed when she gets home andone of her other girlscout friends ask asks her in sympathy in what battle she was wounded to have to explain that she thought she would try diving into a ravine only to find it would not work and there was no water down below."

"Angeline Richee laughed.

"Well it is rather a nuisance, and you see George,the dirt down in the bottom of the ravine got so groundup that the doctor is afraid I will have a black scar.Gertrude always chaffs and kids me about it but I am sure she wouldn't like t it herself."

"Why my dear Angeline"laughed Gertrude "it is a most honorable wound indeed. You will be able to relate upon the desperate capture of one of the wicked Glandelinian scoundrels and how you and I the noble high hatted Gertrude Angeline dashed alone among the Glandelinian works and captured six guns single handed.Why properly worked up Angeline there is no end of greatness to be made out of it.I forsee that I shall be quite a hero me when I get back to the lines.A battle is nothing to such an affair as this.Of course it will be necessary to say that a few Blengdiplomean Creatures attacked you too, and not that you shot down into the middle of the Glandelinians like a wack of wheat because youcould not help it.You must speak of your reckless spring of a hundred feet from the top of the ravine into the middle of them. Why properly told the dangers of Cadernine which I went through before comin g here w u would pale before it."

"I am glad to see that you are in such high gleeful spirits"G orge said when the laugh had subsided....."There is no fear of your being lame after your leg was broken, I hope?"

"No the surgeon says it was only a more sprain and my let will be all right in about threeee days, and as Grlon is who was examining it says the same so I guess my injury is nothing.G Angelines arm was broken entirely.It is very good of the soldier finding from somewhere near a camp a doctor which he brought over to us a reliable sue surgeon surgeon and he had made a capital job of the both of us."

"How would you get along if both of your legs had been taken off?" jested Angeline richee."

"Oh then even I think she would do very well." Penrod said."Of course I know she would not think it is joke Miss Richee for it is not a pleasant prospect for any person to have to go about on two wooden legs all their lives, for me I 'd rather be killed first.Still it happens in battle, many soldiers lose a leg or an arm or both of each, and as our fight with the enemy this time was quite a sharp one and more severe than our two other conflicts, and such an important capture and rescue and information too was made,,, if it did happen she would get her fulll pension and we would see to it that she recieved her just reward.And her wooden legs however would not prevent her earning a living at a trade she knows, and that is telegraph and typewriting and as she is rather one of the most good looking girls known I dare say she won't haveuch difficulty in getting a good husband when she grew up.Maimed heroes and heroines are irrestible to both the male and female mind.But I would not like to have it happen, and I believe it is m because she always carries the miraculous Medal that preserved her from the danger she has risked."

"That's a comfort for you anyhow ,Angeline."Gertrude laughed."Penrod is right.And that black patch on your forehead forehead if it remains which I doubt it will out ought to add a score thousand a year to your marketable value."

"I don't care about what I have to undergo as long as we win."retorted Angeline richee."I'm bound to see Glandelinia get hers, and got it good."

Penrod congratulated George very warmly upon the success the boy had so far in his own efforts to show his own efforts.

"I will not keep you now."The boy colonel said of the scouts"For the mess bugle sounded a little more than five minutes ago.I shall see you again in the afternoon.But remember boy, don't go into the privates mess.Your place is with the officers mind you, as you are due for a commission, and every one wants you as an officer.We lost Janes best boy friend in the last fray, and the boys leaderless are making demands for you....."

As George ky of shy like entered the messess room the girl and boy scouttt officers had just taken their seatsss, after saying their first Grace.He without expecting it was gree ted with a boisterou s outburst of welcome. His friends therefore got up and each girl and boy, shook his hand warmly and he had to answer many inquiries as to how Gertrude and Angeline Richese were getting on"Sit down all of you"Jane Malfort said as she was president or head one of the mess,"Mildred you too.George has had a long m march before hexms sble to return to the raft after this third fray and is I have not the slightest doubt as hungry as if he h had been hunting and failed to get his game.L t let him eat his dinner in peace, and then when the milk and coffee is on the table he shall give us some story of his adventure in detail.By the way George I hope you have placed a good sturdy guard over the prisoner?"

"Yes Miss Malfort, I have plc placed over him the meanest Winkie Abyssinkillan soldier I could find for though I had him handcuffed,and his feet tied, I never felt comfortableuntill he was under guard.The Glandelinian soldier is as strong as a bulll and as heknws what is before him was he was capable of anything desperate to effect his escape. ".

"I remember the prisoner well"One of the boy officers said;"for as you know I was spying in his regiment to learn details of a gen rals plans.He was a notorious ch r character.He had the strength of ten ordinary men, and once or twice when he was on a spree it took twenty strong men to bring him out into the barracks.I am heartily glad he is caught, for the poor children he once murdered in a general massacre committed by Manleys glandelinians were some of the most saintly and popular children in the country---with the soldiers of our country as well as with us----and if any of our menCould have l id their hands on him or his followers I know they would have hung them upwithout even a trail, they would not even waste bullets on them.I shall have real pleasure in giving evidence again t the scoundrel, for I was present at the time he shot and almost w fatally wounded one of the Vivian Girls Princesses Violet!I believe.I wasn't five yards away, but it was all over and the villain was off before I had time to shoot him myself."

QAfter dinner was over George gave the full history history of the conflict on shore of which Gertrude had sent only an outline.

"It was a sharp fight indeed."Jane said, when the boy had finished"for a time she and her force were greatly outnumbered,,.I think on the whole all of you got very well out of it and Gertrude and Miss Richee were lucky in having gotten off with a slightly broken limb each."

George was detained for some minutes in the Mess Hall as he had to be present when the prisoner was brought up before the girlscout magistrates who were to court marshall hemm.....

After giving their avid ness as to the capture the boys attendance was no further required.The Glandelinian prisoner too was well known by George and he was charged with several massacres or in aiding in them, and was re en remanded in order that evidence might be obtained from certain localities where the massacres had occured.George then returned to his own quarters.. An hour later all those who had remained on shore were recalled, Gertrude having recieved the telegram bic news that the enemy near Evangeline St Claire had shown some signs of activities and that there had been several small battles, and she was now ax anxious to get there before any more trouble bat beset her companies on the way.Angeline Bishop was able to be up despite her injury although stiee still unfit for duty, though she stillll retained her command, but how longGertrude would be unfit to be removed was a question. Everyone on shore therefore were given orders for embarkation onto the raft.The boyscouts were and are always fond of change, and although there were many better reasons this than this there was a general feeling of animation and excitement at the thought that it would not be long now before they r nched the christian lines as it was 1 miles away..All officers and men on shore watching for any movement of the enemy too were recalled.It seemed again however to threaten to be a perilous voyage.Officers again overhauled their kits and belongings getting what new things were required and aking all preparations for the last of the trip, if last of the trip were to be.

"Ah George" Jack Sanders said it as the boy came into his quarters in high spirits"There will be a sad change come over us all before very long.You almost wi h wished you might die when you learned your friends the Vivien G rls were gone.What will your feelings be when you have to face the reports that they will never be found?"

"Don't talk about itpiease Jack.The very thought makes me feel queer .If they are not returned we'll see you losing the war.They are only little girls but they can do better than any of the generals can.However I expot we shall try to get on better now than we did the last time.I have always been praying that they will be found."

"Well I do think your few days with us have done you a world of good George. You certainly were a shy sort of a personage when you were brought on board the raft.I thought it was an awful mistake for your parents to risk a trip in a little boat on this flood in the dark for any one who does is sure to suffer for it sdt afterwards."

"Well I have suffered for it to some extet extent."Said George."The lessons I got for even being in Calverinia at this awful time were sharp ones, but they certainly did me good."

"Thereis no doubt about that."Jack agreed,"And I think there is a good deal of credict due to you, George for always having taken things in the proper and the right,, way.When we do reach Emperor Vivians lines lines I wonder where we shall be stationed, ad whether we shall see any good fighting.Upon the whole most of us have no very great reason to be proud of our feats of arms in this awful war so far, but I hope we shall do a better in the future.You see in the early part of our struggles against the foe we knew nothing of their peculiar tactics and were at a very great disadvantage, but after Emperor Vivians armies have been already fighting its way through thePeninsular campaign I don't think there is any fear now of his great army not giving a good account of itself at Evangeline St Claire City if it is called upon to do so there....."

The next minute an orderly came into the room.He whispered to Penrod who at once had arousen.

"Master Penrod"the boy had said,,"Gertrude wants to see you.So she has important news."

Penrod left.

"What can be the matter now."one oc of the boy scout officers said."It must be something of very great importance or Gertrude would never have called Penrod out in that way."

"Heard of something concerning the enemy acrosss the way I suppose.That means we will have to make a race for it before glandelinians pursue us in motor boats. To had to be put t this sort of work when we are hoping to reach the lines.W grumbled another.

Various guesses were made as to the nature of the business, and several wagers were laid on the subject.In twenty minutes Pendo Penrod returned.

He was evidently excited and all listened with great interest as instead of resuming his seat he remained standing.

"Boys and girls"he said"I have great news for you indeed.A quick wireless telegram has just com e come in to Gertrude also with despatches.Evans had one by one found the Vivien girls two hundred miles away in some slave camps far beyond Evangeline St Claire east.He has escaped with them them and 10,000 child slaves and is being pursued by Glandelinians and forest fires together. He had crossed the Zoo Bee Run and will reach Emperor Vivians army in a number of days.Troops of christian cavarly have joined him, and he is already close to HannnAnnn which he is expected to enter without opposition.The Glandelinian masters who have had them in theirpossession fearing the con sequences for the loss of them had fled."

For a moment, there,, was silence, then Jane Melfort leaped to her feet.

"Three cheers everybody."and all of those present joined in a hearty cheer. Then a sudden silence fell po upon them.The first idea that had struck each officer was that the news meant their again seeing their great friends.Then the dismal thought occured to them that they were far from Emperor Vivians lines and would not probably reach there in time to see Evans come in with them.It soon found expression in words.

"Why Penrod we surely won't be forced to take so many more days to get there now this news has arrived from Miss Jennie Turner.There is going to be great excitement soon, for our States or sister states of Calverinia willnever permit all their ow work to be undone,and the Glandelinians to overrun Calverinia as she thinks she can.Why now in a short time all the whole world will be in a blaze in this locality and if Abbiennnia mobilizes as it is said she is doing, how is Glandelinia to take the field like she wishes to do.All this excitement and we'll miss it here.To make things more stirring and more hopeful for us in spite of Hildreds saying, the greater portion of glandelinia's best and most veteran armies are scattered all over Calverinia, in Northern Angeline Vine, throughout western and Eastern Calverinia northern Angelinia, and northern Calverinia.Outside of Myletaas grand army I don't believe there are half a dozen of the old fighting divisions available, and even their ranks are half filled with raw recruits who don't yet know how to present arms, or shoulder a musket. Since all the regiments stillll at home are said to be were mobilentons.Surely there may be great times coming, and we ought to be there before August the Fifteenth and it is either the eighth or the ninth."

"That I can say nothing about."Penrod replied."Certainly Gertrude has given us no orders to proceed and therefore because of her condition I don't believe any thing will be decided upon for some time.The officers of course willsit ex- change notes and hold a council, while the surthorities will spend spend weeks in talk before they make up their minds whether anything is to be done, and if so what, and long before they come to any decision on the subject we may already be with Emperor Vivians army.I quite agree with you Jane that glandelinia can put nothing worth calling an army in the field so quickly as we should choose and that it would be mad a madness for Manley to send anyportion of his own armies to any distant part of the country at the present moment.But we too are in a tighter fix.Every one I am sure knows the lack of wisdom which we seemed to have Calverinia governed, and the miserable slowness of her military surthor ities especially since these big floods, and forest fires and other awfulll devastations are going on.It is not likely to occur to anyone to countermand our own orders, but it will certainly be very disgusting in the extreme if we cannot reach the lines as early as August the Fifteenth."

"Besides"Mildred Maxwell said"It will be maddening to be so long on this farm flood without sufficient news we need, except only that which through her skill Miss Turner manages to send us and to know that perhaps all Abbiennnia may now be in arms and tremndous events going on and we out of it altogether and pe playing hide and seek with the enemy, forest fire, and the floods."

"I should think nothing will be done just at present, nor can it be done because of the flood and forest fires."Penrod said."Abbiennnia is not as sure sewe are whether glandelinia is really guilty of these flood disasters or not, but nevertheless it is forming its armies but because of the floods, and fires and other difficulties to meet with it will be a long time before one of these new armies will be ready to take the field in anything like force.We will have todo the best thing we can with the armies we have or pospone the fightin g till the horror subsides.EventNapoleon Emperor Emperor Vivian grant organizer as he is, and so with his famous brother will take some time even when all Abbiennnia is under arms to put sufficient armies in the field, when he has all he can do so to settle the flood problem and how to prevent the enemy d i doing it in the futr future.An army too you know is a machine that cannot be created in a day no matter how well men of our country may be drilled in all military work before the enter the army.Then too the soldiers have to

be uniformed, equipped more arms and artillery have to be manufactured, fresh cavarly to be mounted, the artillery to be organized, and new field trains got together, and means to come on over across the floods if the waters refuse to abate at all. No I should say that at least four months must elapse before tremendous fighting begins in earn at earnest. Emperor vivians army at Evangeline St Claire is the only one able just now to cope with the foe in this near locality. With anything like a favorable wind we should be in emperor vivians army in at least ten days more, we could make it no sooner. If anything happens we may be thd there we hope for the opening drama. Judging from what has already occured it is likely to be a long struggle bringing Glandelinia to her proper senses again, and make her come back as one of our sister countries, and if we are not in for the first of it we may h in plenty of time for a fair share of the fighting, always supposing that the authorities are sufficiently awake to the mirits of emperor vivians army to trust it in good reliable campaigns."

"How is the wind this evening?" Jack saunders asked.

"It was westerly when we fought the Gland Livians this morning." Lieutenant Jean Saunders said. "Why do you ask???"

"Why as long as it blows from the west there is not much chance of our making any progress northward with our sails, and we'll have to have the boys and men paddle the raft along, and that's work, and much slower"

"That is so" Penrod agreed. "The question for us to consider is whether we ought to pray for a fair southerly wind or a foul. A fair wind will of cour take us too close to laid land and will hindering our getting there as soon as we desire. A foul wind may possibly hurl i us straight northward. It is a nive nice question."

"There is no hope whatever Captian Penrod that our governments can make up their minds before a month especially as the flood question is so difficult to slove."

"Oh if we had towait for that it would be hopeless, but at the same time as it must be evident to any one of the meanest capacity that something or other for which even boy and girlscout troops will be required will have to be done surely a month ought to be sufficient for the idea to occur to some one in surthority that it might be as well not to be sending so much boyscouts abroad as they have always donevuntill matters are finally settled."

"I agree with you Mildred Maxwell said. "Therefore I think we had best make up our own decision that our hopes and wishes, shall be comple ely in favor of a continuance of westerly to south winds.". During that early afternoon never were the weather cocks on the raft watched more anxiously than they were by the girlscout officers and all the rest than they were now. The elements however offered very unfavourable to their wishes for the wind from the west turned to northwest and blew strong and they began to understand that any chances to reached the desired christian army at the time they wished was far from what they hoped. Gertrude Angeline rejoined the troop on the later afternoon. He helped herself by means of a crutch though this was a measure of precaution more than of necessity.

"I almost feel like a sort of imposter." she said it laughing, as she replied to the welcome of her girl and boy comrades. "I believe or wish I could throw away this crutch and dance a jig, but the doctor has laid his commands on me, and my side-decamp, who has been "ruling me with a rod of iron" will not permit the slightest disobedience of them. He seems to consider that he is responsible for me in all respects and if he had been my father, and I his young daughter he could not have behaved with more grosser attention. He simply adores me."

"I sure am glad indeed to see you looking so well Miss Angelinia Aronburg." George said shaking the girlscout warmly by the hand.

"I don't know whether I do right in shaking hands with you George." Gertrude said. "I have been thinking it over while I have been lying there this morning and I have come to the conclus o conclusion that it is you I have to thank for this affair altogether. You are the hero not me."

Every one broke out in a general laugh.

"How do you make that out?" George asked.

"It's clear enough, now my eyes are opened. It was you who discovered the enemy preparing the ambush for us, and when you did so you said at once to yourself" I will get Miss Aronburg and Angelinia Richee to go down to the rear before they fall down a ravine and break their necks, and then they shall get all the honor and glory for the affair. And so it came about. Through you, us a mere handful of soldiers routed the enemy who opposed y us. Yet in the ravine

there I and Angeline lay on the top of each other with the breath knocked clean out of our bodies, while you and all the rest,,, were doing all the fighting and getting the credict of the affair. I appeal to all friends here if it is not a most suspicious affi affair?" (jokingly)

Understanding her joke there was a chourus of agreement. "We did not think it of you George." "A most disgraceful trick." "Ought to be sent to jail." "Ought to be drummed out of the regiment and made to swim ashore" mingled with shouts of laughter."

"By the way the sounds tells us there's a bad battle raging near here somwhere" one of the boy scout officers said, when the laughter subsided "So if we don't get no chance to move yet you will be able to hear of the outcome Miss Aronburg."

in "I have no objections whatever to see that "Red shadow" get the worst of it in battle as he has been terrible to those who are in his path especially when Mylatze isn't around. I suppose Cannonia thinks he can make himself a better con by worsting vivianio before Mylatzes comes to join him. The view of it I take, he'll soon be appealing g to Mylatze for help."

As we all know in reading of the battle then this was the view taken by all on the raft. Cannonia the Red Captian had tried to accomplish what he thought he could do as well as Mylatze and met failure in three days battle. Mylatze had to come to his aid, and then did not resume the battle. When Cannonia was ieldved out and questioned by Mylatze his council pleaded that he had been ga tinqunder compulsion of the christians attacking him at the start (A white lie) and that it was vivianio and his generals who started the battle by taking advantage of Mylatzes s absence. Cannonia finally admittedthat in his desperation to push across Saintary Creek before ,vivianio got round his rear and at the last moment that he had to attack first, and he urged that this was but an effort of despair and not with any idea of making a general attack upon ,vivianios dangerous army without awaiting the return of Mylatze. He also pointed out that the christian losses was greater than his own. Mylatze having some evidence did not believe him nor his council, but as he needed Cannonia very much he did not press for resignation from him but gave Cannonia a good scolding, and proper advice of the term of over confidence and conciatedness, stating that those that think they are "IT" are usually finding they are "nothing." Two of the officers who had failed to support Mylatze were sentenced to transportation to armies where they would recieve lower po commands. Two others were forced to hand in their resignation entirely.

Gertrude however knowing that fighting was going on near by did not desire to go ahead, and besides just now as she saw there was no chances todo so, and she rested and anchored the raft about five miles off shore. Those who had been on early day duty were relieved and dinner was over. Every one had such a good feed that n noon thatthey felt satisfied o to do anything required. Each bot and girlscout also had their mess cans filled enough for the coming supper who especially didnot wish to waste the tim to go into the mess tent, and what was more they had a double ration of sausage and bread brand. Never before since any of them of the first who left general vivianis army had they such good luck as this. Even the girlscout cooks begged every one to eat as much as possible, beckoning to even theofficers that passed, and gave him almost more than the scout could possibly eat. What was more interesting and important still was the double ration of ammunition for those who had become short in the past skirmish. The soldiers themselves recieved ten cigars which was decent as men in Abbiennia and her states do not smoke cigarets or chew. tobacco. One elderly boyscout of about fourteen years of age who was a smoker had fourty ci gars given him, and he gave them out ofkindness to a colonel. The boy too claimed he had no right to all of them when others might not have any. Of course the Abbiennian was always very generous. Outside of som noise of battle in the fa distance it was fairly quiet on the flood so the quartermaster scouts had given in the usual quo quanity of rations and provided for the full force of the once usual five thousand men and the two hundreds girls and one hundred and fifty boys. But because of the last encounter their losses had been great, and there were only two thousand eight hundred men left whole and entire, and Gertrude firmly decided she would not risk no more close encounters. Gertrude had heard from some telegraphic rumor that Cannonia was getting the worst of the fighting for the Angelinians had opened on his army an astonishing number of great guns with high explosive and shrapnell and covering their farce attacks with this drumming ceaselessly on the enemy positions, and therefore she felt the confidence Cannonia would be running before

Cann Mylers could come to his aid....Those who had been on night duty moved to their own quarters, and settled down to get a good sleep for once(for often Gertrude had said that it was not a bad war at all if anyone could at least get their proper hours of sleep, and some of them including the man have had next to none, once for fourteen days, and she did not know how they could stand it.

To see how on this day they all had their mess was quite exciting.Half an hour even before the dinner bell rung every man, and ch ld child scout,, had his mess canteen, and had either gathered at the outside cook house, or gone into the mess hall which smelt of the good things that were cooking.At the head of the lines on the outside of course were many of those more hungry than all the rest, those who had gone hungry the longest, and one of these was Jack Sanders once a careless boy but now the clearest thinker among them all, and another boy who still carried his school ext textbooks with him, dreamed of his how work, and tries to write stords of his adventures in the war, Jane Welfort who for every mess call wears her full commission un f uniform and looks like a purple coated sprite.And so on untill they count to the biggest eater of all the child scouts and that was Jean Saunders.She sat down to eat as if it was the first time she did so in all her life and then so on.All the officers eat by themselves, and the privates too.

Despite the fact of so much dirty water of the flood, and for the heat and distent forest fires and all the consequences of the war, the day was good wonderfully good.However no other telegraph leters had come yet, and every boyscout and girl and the men often had hoped for and expected letters and p p papers. If all the men in the armies had just known that they many among them had lost families and dear ones in the disasters.But for the sake of humanity, as long as it was not proven that Glandelinia did it Emperor Vivian emposed the severest penalty on anyone letting the news leak into the army so that all christian armis so far were irgon ignorant of the real facts.

On the right side of the raft a large common shed of some kind had been built and it was a well planned and most durable construction.However there were also benches for tired ones to sit on which some of the girlscout officers were now sitting on comfortably. Jean Saunders remembered well how embrassed she had been as a new recruit in barracks in general Graniers army when she had to use any givien thing she could find to sit on.sometimes when the army had been on the march she had sat even with the forces of the Princesses side by side in a railway carriage so that they could all be reviewed at one glance,for even boy and girlscouts too are always n and must always be under supervison.Since then Jean had learned a lot more than to be shy about such trifling inconviences.In time things far worse than that can came easy to us.Here in the open air though on a large raft, the business of taking rests was entirely a pleasure.Some however did not properly appreciate these rudely made benches when they first were constructed they were new to them and did not fill such an important role,,, but now every body always took their rest on them.And she knew that the soldier was always on friendlier terms than other men with little children, especially brave children who become scouts.Yet three quarters of his vocabulary was derived from what he had heard Glandelinians do to little children,and they gave an intimate flavour to expressions of his greatest horror as well as of his deepest indignation.It is almost impossible for any christian soldier to express himself in any other way so clearly and pithily.Fortunately they did not use shocking language for that was not allowed.And also enforced publicity had in their eyes restored the character of complete innocence to all these war horrors.More than that they seemed to be so much of a strange matter of course that their uncomfortable performance was fully as much enjoyed as if the soldier had seen his own dear onesmurdered before his eyes.Now for the early afternoon every one was allowed to have wonderfully care free hours.Over them was the smoke covered sky, with the sun trying to shine through. On the eastern horizon floated the strange bright yellow ad white smoke clouds of exploding shells mingled with many little white clouds of other bombs that often rose in a sheaf.They could also hear the muffled rumble of the distant battle only as very distant thunder and something else sounding like the droning of a million bumble bees. Around them stretched the ernormous flood waters.Those not on du ty read papers they had found, and some of the men were smoking.The wind played with Jeans hair, it seemed to play with her words and thoughts.One of the men set the lid of a butter marg arine tub on his knees and made a good table for a game of chess.Another soldier had the materials with him.Jean as she was alone watching them felt she could sit like this forever.

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From some one came the notes of an accordion which floated across the raft in some sad sweet music.Often one of the men la id aside the cards and looked about him.One said"Well boys""Or it was a near thing that time"And for a moment all were silent.There was in every one on board the raft a feeling of constraint.Indeed they were all sensible to it, and there were no words needed to communicate it.It it might often easily have happened for all of them that they would not be sitting or working or playing there on the raft, and often it had came near to that too.And so everyone seemednore new and brave/

Finally George who was sitting some distance across from Jean asked;

"Anyone seen Jams Watson lately. ?"

"He's in his tent under good care."Jean told him."He has a flesh wound in his arm, a bad one. ."

"George pulled out a letter,a telegraphic letter from the east.

"Jack Evans who rescued the Vivien Girls sends you all his best wishes." said George.

Every one laughed, while a soldier threw his butt away and said;

"I wish he was here.He'd get us out of this scrap."

Evans had been their scout master, an active good hearted man and though handsome, had a face like a shrewd mouse."He had said that it was very queer that the unhappiness of the wars outcome was so often brought on by the Manleys in parficular and he had urged that all children of the right age should join as scouts as they were safer in the army than outside of it. Jean had remembered the long lecutres Evans used to give untill the whole class went under his sheparding and got many more boys and girls in other towns to volunteer.She fancied she could see him now, as he used to look at her like her own father and saying in a moving voice;

"Won't you get more brave children to join the Vivian Girls work.

Jean remembered that when she went about at his bidding to get girlscout recruits, there was one who has hesitated and did not want to fall into line. That was Johanne Laborie Zoei, a plump good looking ten year old girl.But she finally gave in to escape being ostracized.Ad many of them had thought as she did but no one could dare to standout at such times because the enemy was a child hater, and extremely dangerous to children and the children went in for the protection of the army.The wisest were just the poor and simple children.They knew the war to he be a terrible misfortune, and knowing such an enemy knew what the consequences were to be if they remained outside the army having known of the frightful massacres of children already done.

Gertrude had said that was a result of so many people daring to remain in the smallest defenseless towns.They were overconfident, t did not think the enemy that savage.And what Gertrude had said, Jean had always thought about. Since she had entered ,Jean had seen plenty of the dreadful war.She had seen many of the soldiers who were the first to fall.She saw one man get hit in the eye during an attack of the enemy, and saw that the soldiers were forced to leave him lying for dead.They couldn't bring himwith them, because they had to come back helter skelter.In the afternoon out on that fearful field suddenly she had heard him call, and saw him outside the trenches creeping tward the lines.She dared to run out and tri try to fetch him in and found that he could not see, and was mad with pain, and he had failed to keep under cover and so was shot down before any one could go and fetch him in.There were many thousands per charge of men like this.For the leds of eighteen older boyscouts the leaders were naturally guides the guides to the world of easy safe military work, of duty,.The girlscouts often adored them and trusted them.The idea of authority which they represented was associated in their little min ds with a greater insight and a good wisdom.Jean saw now that soe som times children in the army are not alwayssafe.The first big battle showed her her mistake und and under it the world seemed to have been broken to pieces. While the war continued on she and many other girl and boy scouts had seen the wounded and dying in immense swarms fairly immense ever increasing crwds for one battle.While the girls and boys had been taught that duty to ones country is the greatest things, they already knew that the enemys fury was stronger, and that death throes were stronger But for all the terrors yhey had experianced they were no cowards, no deserters, they were all very free with all these god expressions.They surely loved their country as much as any one should love it, they had gone most courageously close to every action intense or slight, but also they distinguished the false from the true, they had suddenly learned to see.And now they saw that there was nothing of their world left. .Too much fire, too much flood, devastating explosions and all dreadful scenes.They were all at once terribly alone, and alone they

must see the terrible "convulsion through.

Before going over to see James W tson those going to see him packed up some of his things, for they felt sure he would never recover sufficiently and would have to be sent home as he would need the things on his way back. In the small dressing station on the raft there was stillll great activity, it reeked unusually of carbolic, ether and sweat. Most of the soldiers are always accustomed to this in the army camps for the wounded, but here it made many of the weaker kind of girlscouts feel sick and faint. Jean led the way in.

"Who do you want to see now Jean dear?"asked Glorin ia.

"We would like to see poor James Watson who got shot today."

She did not answer but pointed to where he lay and as they went over to his bed where he lay in a large room he recieved his friends with feeble ex pressions of joy and helpless agitation. Jack Sanders is with them. Sometimes the boy was crude and t tactless, and he spoke a lot when he should have held his tongue, for anyone no matter who they were could easily see that poor James Watsoj Watson would n ever come out alive again.

"How goes it now poor James?"asked Jean.

"Jame's's head sank into the willow and he almost wept.

"Not so bad Jean,----but I have such a terrible pain in my arm."

They took a look at his bed covering. Jean saw that his arm lay under a sort of wire basket, and was held firm in a splint. The bed coverin g was in a arch over it. She kicked Jack on the shin of the leg for he was just about to foolishly tell James what Glorinia had said before they entered "That the lad had lost part of his arm. That portion had been taken off. The poor boy indeed looked ghastly, yellow, and wan for in his face there was already the strained lines that any good well experienced doctor knew so well, and the the boy and girlscouts have seen them many hundreds of times. Jean knew that the poor lad was going todie. S e She could see it in his eyes. she whispered to Jack;

"Here lies another ofour good comrades, poor Watson who a little while ago had been drin drilling good with us. He it is still, and yet it is not him any longer poor lad."

"I have noticed"said Jack. "His festwas have become faint very faint. Even His voice has the death sound. We have risked too much. After this we must never go ashre untill we reach our destination or there'll be no one of us left..."

Now Jack thought of the time the regiment of boyscouts went away. This poor boys mother, a good plump saintly lady, brought him to the army thinking he'd be safer. She had wept most continuall/, and her eyes were read. The poor boy had felt embrassed, for she was indeed the least composed of all, n and she seemed to have simply disolved into tears. Then she caught sight of Jack, and had taken hold of his arm again, and again,, and implored to him to look after James in the army. Indeed he did have a face like a girl, and such frail bones that after four w eeks scouting he had been footsore. But how can anyon e have the chances to look out for anyone in this terrible horror.

"You will soon be going home, and every one will call you a hero. "Said Jane "However you would have towait three or four months or so before you would be well enough to leave."

The wounded boy noddsed. They could not bear to lok at his hands, his little hands, for they looked as if they were transfixed into wax. Francis Kauffman a boy of his age leaned over.

"We have brought you your things James."

The wounded boy only signed "put them under the cot "with his hand .

Francis did so. The wounded lad says with a sigh that he knows he is going to die. Jean whispered to Jane;

"How can any one calm him without making him fearsome? Has the priest seen him?"

"Yes she whispered. "He gave him the Last. Sacraments. "

"Joan is delighted at this news. The others had the sae thought, and even if he should get better he would never regret it. However Jane reappears with a picture of the boys parents.

"Will you send it back to them?" the poor lad asks.

"Will you leave it with us?"Jane asked.

The wounded boy however did not wish to, for they were his most prized possession.

"I could send them home. "Suggested Jack. "Out here you could not retain them."

Still James was not to be moved. Joan treads on Jacks foot, reluctantly he puts the p ictures back again th under the lads pillow. They s oke a little more and then prepared to take their leave.

"Good bye, and God Bless you James."

"We will come back to morrow in the morning. "Said Francis.

The wounded boy groaned. He was fervo feverish, and he looked it. Joan came across one of the boy scout orderlies who was coming in from the outside and asked him to give the wounded lad a dose of morphia. At first he refused even though she was of a commission.

"And why not!!!"""she demanded.

"why Miss Joan if we were to give it to every wounded one here we would not have enough to use during the operations, and we are short of it;;;; "

"You only attend to officers properly "said Joan viciously. "I command you to do it."

"But I'm not allow to give it."

"Jane mulfort hastily intervened. "Get that o morphia "she said. "I'll be responsible. You obey orders or----""

"Well all right." he said and as he went in, she went in with him for it seems she does didn't trust him and wanted to see that he did it. The others waited outside. Jack returned to the subject of Holy Communion for the lad in the morning.

"It would bring him nearer to God in his last hours. "He said. "Do you think Joan he will last till to morrow after drill or after we start moving. "If he passes out in the night,, we know where the priest is, and can fetch him before-"

Jane Mc,fort returned.

"Do you think "she started "he is done for "said Joan emphatically.

They went back to their tents in gloom. Jack thought of the letter which he promished to have telegraphed to the boys mother, but he wondered how he could do it when nothing was left anymore, and he would not know whether the lads mother survived the floood disaster or not. He felt hot and feverish himself.

Jane Jane who was chewing on a sticks and threw it away, stamped on it savagely and looking round her with a broken and distracted face dared to stammer,

"Damned Glandelinian swine, child murderers. Damned child murders, the catty skunks."

The others were silent for a time. Finally Jane mana ed manshed man aged to calm herself, she had seemed to see red indeed for what the child scouts had seen of the devastations of the war every one got like that often.

"What is the trouble now Jane ,?"asked Wildred.

"She giggled. "We are the hunted mice. The Glandelinians are the rotten skunks."

The five girlscouts and the boy smiled, bit erly. Jane railed, she seemed to be glad that she could speak.

"Yes, that is what we know, the Glandelinians are making war on Heaven itself. We must get every child no matter what age into our forc s. It's dan gerous it is true but no so as when you are in a defenseless town with a horde of these gray ratted savages falling on it. We shall show Glandelinia that we are the main menance."

"It is strange to think "said Jack "thq that when I was home I used to go to school, work hard over my lessons- or something of that kind---but now that seems to be so unreal to me that I cannot hardly comprehend it one day. For most of us boys and girls whether in the army or outside of it our youngest lives if cut off by the enemy from the moment the war broke out and that without our even having a chance to lift a hand to defend ourselves. When I come to look back on this real horror, the massacres of little girls especially and horrible ones and to find an explanation but never quite succeeded I firmly believe Glandelinia is making it a war on children more than on the soldiers, and that our armies are our defenders. For so many of us young kids from three to six everything I suppose is extraordinarly vague, but for you Jane, and me, and Jean for all of us here, we know what is going on, ad therefore are young kids too but have been comm commissioned to fight the enemy like the soldiers do. All the soldiers of the army are liked up with their pveious lives, but I'll doubt that one third the soldiers in Emperor Viviens army know that their wives may be dead and their children too, and that their strongest background is obliterated by this inhumen most savage war. Miss Turner wrote to Gertrude that Emperor Viviens army, and many others are for good reasons even totally ignornat of the horror going on. Whq what a terrible outburst there will be when Emperor vivian allows the news to flash abroad. God help the foo then. We young child scouts of from ten and upwards however who have onlyour parents are mostly ignorant of what their fate is and some p rhaps do not know anything either of what the real horror is except what we see here. Besides this there was little else --we don't even know what a school is now. Beyond this for most of us our lives did not extend. And of this nothing remains. A t the beginning we stood at the more threshold oflife we had as yet taken no

root, the war has swept many of us away, by massacre, or by flood and slavery. For the others the armies of men, they go as fast as we do into dead and wounded because the battles are so frightful.We have also been terribly gripped by it and do not even now know when the end may be We only know that in some very strange and melcholy way we have become a number of beings in a hellish wasted land, flood fire and bloody horrors.All the same why it is I do not know that we are not often sad."

Though all of them would be delighted to see the wounded lad receive Holy Communion in the early morning they were all reallly quite as sad as all others who could not bear to think of losing a friend as they had.Every one of the child scouts saw things clearly. Rather than see any of their comrades die the boy or girlscouts would rather go barefooted over barbed wire. They had never suspected to suffer losses like this, and yet poor Frank would die.They all seemed to lose sense of all other considerations because they were not necessary and only the real facts of the situation was more important to them.When the boys and girls first entered the thoughts was different.When they went to the district commanders to enlist they had been of good kind many of whom were proud to be in the army as scouts.Yet then they had had no entireplans for the future for thr their thoughts had been only for a career and a occupation which were as yet too unpracticable a character to furnish any good scheme of life and venture.They indeed had been still crammed full of vague ideas which gave to lifes adventues and the adventures of the war also an ideal and romantic character.Before being commissioned as boy or girlscouts they had been trained in the army for four or twelve weeks and in this time toomore profoundly influenced than a life term as at school.They learned that a bright chareeer is weighter than anything colored.At first they had been astonished, then embittered, and finally indifferent, they recognized that what matters is not the mind, but safty for yourselves, not intelligence, but the system of avoiding persuading foe cavarly squadrons, not freedom but drill to save yourselves from so frightful a foe.Though boys and girls they entered the army at first with eagerness and enthusiasm, but thefury of the foe has doneeverything to knock that out of them.After their first three weeks it was no longer incomprehensible to them that the Glandelinians would not even do worse than was heard of.Withou With their young as awak ned awakened eyes they saw that the clasical conception of their native country resolved itself in to a renunciation of the personalties of rocking floods, frightful fluods, and suffering that a world of books could not tell and such misery as one would not expect of the lowest slave.They could do any salutes, spring to attention, make parade marches, presenting arms, right whell, left wheel, clk clicking the heels and a hundred other details out in some thought to be safe spot without being sniped by hidden Glandelinian foes.The boys and girls had fancied their task would be different then the soldiers only to find that instead of being of heroism the Glandelinians were menancing them anywhere even within the christian lines. But they had soon accustomed themselves to it.They learned in fact that all these things were necessary but the rest merely slow.

James hime himself remembered when he had been in the hands of the enemy under Manley.He had been placed in under a sergeant known as Goofy glass eyes because he wore four spectacles over each eye.And he had a dreadful reputation and was proud of it.He was a tall fellow with a long pirate likeb moustache, who had seen many years of service and had been in civel life a hard hearded schoool teacher.He had a special dislike for child slaves, but he hated James more because he was fire firt foriegn.The serg a serge nt had compelled the boy to make and remake his bed eighteen times in one morning for at each time he had found some fault andpulled it to pieces.And James had remembered when he had been compelled to knead a pair of historic Gland linia made boo s boots that were ar hard as iron for twenty hours, with of course intermissionsbetween untill they became as soft as pie and not even your eyes could find anythingmore to do to them than have them shined andunder his orders James had been forced to scrup out the officers Mess Hall threese times a day on hands and knees.and he a was also or had also in winter been givis given the job of cleaning out the barrack square of the officers quarters of snow and ice with a hand broom and a dust pan,, and James remembered how he would have been compelled to go on untill he had been frozen had not Manley himself accidentally appeared who sent him off, and raised cain with the Sergeant.But this only resulted in making four eyes hate him more.For six weeks he compelled James to do guard duty every night for three hours, during the day too was made to be hut orderly.With full pack then and rifle the boy had been made to practice on a soft wet newly ploughed field the "prepare to advance, advance"and the Lie down"untill he was nothing else but mud, and mud, and was'eating mud' and finally collaps. Four hours later he had remembered to be made to report to the head sergeant with his clothes scrubbed clean, his hands chafted and bleeding.

Together with child slaves he remembered when he had been forced to stand at attention in a hard frost of winter without gloves wi for an hour at a stretch, while the sergeant watched for the slightest movement of their bare fingers on the steel barrel of the rifle.Even James remembered when he had been made to run twenty eight times from the top floor of the barracks down to the courtyard, in below zero weather only in his shirt at two oclock in the morning because his under pants projected one inch beyond the edge of the stool on which he had to stack all his things, nearly more than the stool would even hold.Alongside him had ran the sergeant"foreeye"and trod on his bare toes.Ad he wonce wondered why he had been made to do these things too when he was nether a slave nor a scout.He even had made him do bayonet practice practice nand then had to constantly fight with a bad ill tempered Glandelinian boyscout.When James one day refused to do so the sergeant reported him to the Company Commanders, but that man had only laughed at him and told him he ought to go easier with a "greenhorn", heunderstood the ser sergeant and apparently was not displeased at his mishap..Jm James remembered too that on one sunday as he and a child slave girl were lugging a big water bucket one pole acrosss the barracks yard, "four eyes" came by all polished up and dressed in a uniform as if he was a king prepared for going out.He remembered when the scoundrel planted himself in front of him and the girl and asked how the girl liked thev job.In spire of he and the girl however they had tripped and emptied the bucketx over his beautifully shined shoes.He raved but the limit had been reached.

"That means a whipping good and sound." he yelled.

But James remembered that the girl had said"There will be an inquiry first and then we'll unload."

"Mind you dirty rascally child slave how you speak to a non-commissioned officer."b the four eyeshad hawled."Have you lost your senses a slavefYou wait till you are spoken to.Whatwill you do anyway?"

"Show you up sergeant"he had remembered the girl sa."You kn ow you are not supposed to go out without leave, and I see you always do."

James remembered the sergeant saw what the haungty girlsave meant and went off without saying a work.But before he i had sissappeared he growled."The both of you will lie in the mud.James remembered the threat camethrough and he was forced again to do the muddy drill"of Prepare to advance,advance" and "lie down"."He had to obey the order since an order is an order of course.But he did it so slowoy slowly that the sergeant became desperate.Carefully he an d the others had gone down on their knees, then on their hands, and so on in the meantime quite infuriated he had given another command.But before he had even begun to obey to sweat he was hoarse.After that he had left him in peace. He did al ays refer chris ian children as swine.There as James remembered many other staff corporals and other officers but none of them were decent onot in the glandelinian army.Practically every concievable polishing job in the entire company camp fell to James and he oftenhad howled with rage.Many of the slaves became ill through it, andone actually died of posion ng of the lung. But this had made James hard, suspicious, pitilis vicious and tough, and he remembered now that it waw good for these attributes had been en tirely lacking in him.Had he gne into scout service now aw as he was now striving for without this period of training on the part of the Glandelinian sergeant before he escaped he might have gone mad at the sight of the wars horrors.Only in this way the lad remembered that he had been prepared for what awaited him.He did not therefore break down even when it was sure his mother and sister perished when the raft and ship rammed his little boat.And now he waw was anxious to get even with the enemy.

Though the others had gone out James still sat at the wounded lads cot for he n t noticed that he was sinking steadily.The doctor that is the man one who was employed in the camp passed by his bed without once looking at him.

"You'll be all right soon I hope my friend."said James.

H He raised himself on the pillow with his elbows.

"They had to cut off my arm, and right leg.I'm done for.Oh Iall bring evidence age nst the Glandelinians when I stand before God to be judged."

James nodd d and answered;

"You should be thankful you come off with that."

The wounded boy was silent and James resumed"It might have been both legs and arms Francis Two of my men friends have both lost their right arm.Thats much wors e.Besides if you live you will be go ngoing home a hero."

He only looked at James.

"Do you think so?"

"Why of course."

"Do you reallly think so?"the poor lad repeated.

"Sure indeed"said James."Once you have recovered from the operation."

He beckoned James to bend done, and as he did so he whispered"I do not think I'll be alive this evening."

"Don't talk such discouraging words Francis, in a few days you'll see for yourself.What is it anyway an amputated leg or arm.In the army they have patched up far worse things than that, and the wounded ones pulled through."

The boy lifted one hand."Look here though, these fingers."

"That's the result of your condition after the operation.But I believe if you would eat properly you would soon recover.I know they look after you properly as none of us want to lose a single member."

The boy pointed to a dish that was still half full.James felt excited.

"Francis you must eat if you wan t to get well.Eating is the main thing when you are wounded.And that looks excellent too.Better than we get when we are well."

But the wounded boy only turned away,and after a pause he said slowly"I wanted to become a priest once upon a time."

"You may still if you try to get well."James assured him."There are splendid artifical limbs now,and when you get used to them you won't hardly ever know that there is an arm or a leg missing.They are fixed on to the muscles, and they tell me you can move the mu fingers and work and even write with an artificial hand.And besides they will always be making new improvements."

But for a while he laid still and quiet.Then he said"You can take my parents pictures and try and find them for me."

James nodded and wondered what to say to encourage him.The boys lips have had fallen away his mouth had become larger his teeth were sticking out and looked as though they were made of chalk.The flesh loked as it if it was melting the forehead bluged more than unus unusally prominent, the cheeks bones were prod protruding, as if the skeleton of the boy was trying to work itself through. The eyes were already sunken in and James feared tha in a couple of hours the lad would be gone.And he was not the first that James had seen thus tut he wasmuch used to these sights, and getting used to the war proves it.James began to think of his own early boyhood days.He still had retained some of his school work copies and at school he used to remember that he used to wear a gray coat with a belt and shiny sleeves with gold lacings and made all other boys envious. Yet he had never observed this.He had in the few days he had known him grown fond of Francis and he was the onlyone of the boyscouts who could do the best turns of any kind on the parsellel bars.All the officers had been proud of him for it. nd the wounded boys face had always been white and he had had something of the girl about him.There h lay now but why was it so?Was it not enough to see soldiers fall.The whole world of chris'ianity ought to pass by this poor boys bed and say"There is the poor boy nine and half years old, he wasn't wishing to die, only serve his own country. Let him not die now or q avenge it on the enemy.But that couldn't be.The enemy have done all this, and yet is vengeful himself still more on Angelinian countries. An Glandelin is gets the vengeance, Abbieannia suffers it.James thoughts become confused.He believes Abbieannia is done for too.Abbieannia will never win the war.His thoughts becomes confused for this atmosphere of carbolic and gangerine and others clogs the lungs like a thicksuffocating gruel.Smoke from distent forest fires came overhead making it grow dark.The wounded boys face was now changing color and he lifted it from the pillow so pale that it was gleaming.He moved his mouth slowly as James drew near to him.He whispered"If you find my sisters, and parents at home tell them---"

James could not find voice to reply, for it was of no use any more.No one can console both, for even James was wretched with helplessness.This poor lads forehead with its now hollow temples, and his mouth that was now merely a slit that is easily noticed on a dying person. n And if still living the poor weeping mother of this lad at home to whom James must write, and then see when the opportunity presents itself.If only the letter were sent off already.James asked for the boys address and got it.He paled as if he took suddnly sick.

The address was;

I035 Greenburg Street.La Polema City
Bengall State.Province of Calverinia."

One of the boy scout orderlies came up, cast a sad glance at the wounded boy and went away again with tears in his eyes and mumbled something to himself.James bended over the sick boy and talked to him as though it could have

saved him."Perhaps you will soon when the raft lands shore again be sent to a refugee camp where you will convalse.Then you can look out from the window across the fields to the beautiful trees on the horizon.It is supposed to be the /oveliest time of the year now, when the corn ripens, at evening the fields if there comes to be any sunlight looks like mother of peral.And the be u beautiful lane of populars where you could catch sticklebacks and you will be out of the war too."

Jams leans over his face which lies now in the shadow.He was still breathing heavily, his face was wet and it appeared he was crying."What a fine ass indeed I must have made of it with my foolish speech"James thought to himself. "But Francis"J m es James put his arm round his shoulders, and placed his face against his. "Will you try to sleep now."

The poor sick boy did not answer though the tears stillll ran down his cheeks. James desired to wipe them away but his handkerchief was too dirty..An hour passed.James sat tensely and watched the every movement of the boy in case he may so say something else, but he only wept and turned his head aside. What if he had opened his mouth to cry out.He spoke of his poor mother, brothdr brother and sister."James again paled.What if they were drowned for he knew what happened at La Polema,that city is no more.This was for James the most disturbing and hardest partin g that he had ever felt, although it was worse probably with the feared loss of his parents.James had too remembered one big soldier who fell at Delight's Junction who called for his wife, and children and parents too, and who with wild eyes full of terror in his delirum held off the doctor and Nuns from his bed with a sabre untill he collaspsd. Suddenly the poor boy groaned and began to gurle.James jumpedup, stumbled outside quickly and demanded;

"Where is the doctor.For Heavens sake Glorinia where is the doctor."

As he caught sight of the White uniformed man he seized hold of his arm.

"Come quick doctor please, the boy is dying."

The doctor however freed himself and asked the orderly who came up

"Where does the boy lie?"

The orderly answered."Ben. Bed ten.Amputated leg and arm."

"No use James"the doctor said."I've done all I could.The rest is up to God Himself."Then turning to the orderly said"See to it."

James trembled with rage at the Glandelinians as he went along with the orderly..The orderly said to James as he looked at him;

"One operation after another on the wounded men to day since the ridiculous engagement this morning.You should know to day there have been fourty deaths among them--the boy would be another.There will be probably a fifty deaths altogether.If this keeps on we'll ann be annihilated;;----"

James became faint, and all at once he felt he could do no more.He decided he won't revile at the enemy any more, it is useless, senseless, and he felt that he could drop down and never rise up again..Both he and the boy orderly stood beside the boys bed.He was dead though the face was still wet from the tears the eyes were half open and yellow.The orderly poked the boy James in the ribs.

"Will you take care of his things?"

James could only nob nod.

"Well "said the orderly"we must take him away at once and bury him i on shore.We can't keep him on the raft.Outside other wounded are lying on the raft, and one needs the cot.".

James collected the things and took them away.Behind him they were already placing the poor lad on to a water proof sheet, untill time came to have a Mass said for his departed soul.Outside the t tent door James became aware of the darkness and the hot winds as a deli verance.He breathed as deep as he could and felt the warm breeze in his face .Thoughts of flowery meadows, of white clouds in the sky, beautiful summer scenes, suddenly came into his head, and then of his sisters beautiful little girls.To him it seemd that the earth was streaming with forces which poured into him through the soles of his feet.The darkness crackled electrically, and the distent battle now thundered like a concert of drums.James came to Jean who was sitting on a latreen stool.He rooted among her supplies and offered James a cheese sandwitch but he shook his head.He did not feel like eating.

As well as she was able Angeline Jennings tried to figure on the losses so far.The vacancies were known by those who did not respond to the roll call.Some of them were old veterans among the soldiers.Many of the boy and girlscouts surviving were mere infants.There were many about three or four years younger.Angeline Jennings joined her friends after her futile work.

The girlscout officers strolled past the groups standing near the rafts edge looking in melancholy across the flood.Angeline Jennings stood before the Glandelinian prisoner.

"I see we forgot to give you your Mess this morning so its a long time since you had anything decen t to eath eh!"

He grimaced.

"What did you have before you was taken prisoner.?"

"Well for breakfast this morning we had turnip bread lunch, turnip stew and fish salad."

Angeline gave a strange whistle.

"Bread made of turnips!That's strange.Wall I suppose you get unfair rations in the Glandelinian camps.Are you telling me a story or is it true.If it is truthful what do you say to a small portion of haricot beans!Want to have some ?"

The Glandelinian prisoner turned red and said;

"You can't kid me a mere girlscout."

"Give me your mess tin.You still got that I suppose."

He handed it to her and she went to a tub beside a flag pole.It was nearly half full of a stew of beef and beans.She placed herself in front of it like a chief general and said;

"Sharp eyes and light fingers accomplished this."

Jean who followed her was surprised.

"Great guns, Angelinia how did you come to get that so easily!"she asked him.tt her.

"Some of the soldiers secured it during the fight this morn ing .Hot beans taste fin e for supper too. Grud"

Grudgingly she brought it over and gave the Glandelinian prisoner a portion and said;"Next time you need any have a cig ar or a pan of tobaco in your other hand for the cook.Get me!We charge prisoners for the rations we have to serve."

Angeline Richee who was the main cook of the whole raft never allowed the rations to go short for she sure had good sense.Of course as we all know there are many people like that and they should be appreciated.Every Company in the boy and girlscout Regiments has three or four.Angelin e Jennings the second cook was the smartest known. And it was always a good safe thing to be friends with her.Tward late afternoon the raft was pushed closer to shore as the sound of distant battle had died down. Jack and some of the boys landed at Gertrudes suggestion to investigate for forage.They came upon an unknown spot where there stil stood a tall dark country home that had been shattered to its very walls.Hearing some strange noise the boys hid themselves.They found a few bunks in the place, a couple of wooden beams over which wire netting had been stretched for some purpose or other.We all kn ow that wire netting is very hard indeed.Jack looked at the place and then said to James"Come with me .You other boys remain here till I return."

They then went off to explore.A few minutes later they came back with arms loaded with long dry grass.Jack hadpulled it up from the ground in the woods.It was for a purpose that he brought it.James asked one of the boy boys who had been sometime in the army as a scout"Is there any enemy canteens anywhere abouts.We could raid it and get some dainties."!

"Is there a what you call it." he demanded with a laugh."Why there's nothing to be had in sight.Yo You won't secure as much as a crust of bread there."

"Is the enemys lines far from here then!"

"Yes a couple of miles I'll say.But its risky almost to sucide to raid their canteens.And that's a bad business.We will have to pull in our bolts and wait till we return to the raft, and get our supper."

But Jack was seen putting on his cap.

"Where are you going now Jack!" James asked.

"Just to explore the region a bit.I'll be back soon." Jack strolled off. One of the other boys grinned scornfully.

"Let him explore the country, but don't be too hopeful about it.He won't find anything good for us. "

The other boys feeling disappointed prepared to lay down and consider whether they should remain here or go back to the raft for food.But its was too risky without Jacks guidiance, they knew not the way without him, and so they wain waited patiently.One of the boys gave an account of his national dish he once had in the army, broad beans and bacon claiming he had dispised it when it was not flavored with Limberger Cheese, and for heavens sake let it all be cooked together, not the potatoes the beans, and the bacon seperately but all at once.Some one growled that he would desert his if he doesn't shut up.Then all became quiet in the big ruins only the candles flickering on the nec from the necks of a couple of bottles.They gave a sudden stir as Jack appeared.

For a moment James believed he was dreaming, ; he had two lo aves of bread under his arm and a blood stained sandbag full of cow meat in his hand.The boys felt of the bread to make sure it was real.It was real and still hot too, and when Jack was asked where he got it he g did not give any answer.He had the bread and so nothing else matters.He only said to James "cut some wood."

Then he brought forth from under his coat a frying pan, and a handful of salt as well as a lump of fat from his pocket.Indeed Jack though recently a careless kind of lad could think of everything.James makes a fire on the flood.and it lighted up the empty room.Jack kn w knew how to roast steak so that it was tender declaring it shouldn't be put into any pan for that made it tough.It should be boiled boiled first in a little water._hen all was fixed the five boys squatted round in a circle and had their supper out there.That was the way with Jack for if but for one or two hours in a year something good to eat were to be had in someoneplace only within that hour, the lad as if he had been moved by a vison would put on his cap go away and walk directly there and easily find it..He could find anything if it was cold in winter he f would find a small stove and wood, hay and straw and papers, anything but above all food.It seemed to the boys who knew him quite uncanny, for they almost thought he conjured it out of the very air.He often secured boxes of lobsters and sardines and also crabs and shrimps.After supper the boys settled themselves on the sunny side of the broken down house.There was a sm ll of burning pine t ar in the air of summer and of other forest fire oders.Jack sat beside James.One of the boys said;

"Yesterday all of us had to practice saluting because one of us failed to salute Angelinia Aronburg as we passed her."

Jack couldn't get this out of his head.

"He said"You see we are losing the war because too many of us blunder."

One of the boys walked up with his breeches rolled up and his feet bare.He wanted to rest his hot aching feet. James and Jack for a time began to argue on the war.Yet Jack won't budge from the opinion as to who was winning the war and then James showed he was a hard thinker.He finally said;

"When there is a declaration of war it should be a kind of strange festival with entrance tickets and bands, and lots of flags and shows.Then in the prize fight ring the ministers and generals of the two countries dressed in prize fight customs and armed with whips should have it out among themselves . Whoever survives the lashings his country wins.That would be more simpler and more just than this bloody arrangement where too many people go to their deaths doing the fighting.Finally the subject was dropped and the con versation turned to drill.A picture came before James as he heard Jack speak.Beautiful but burning midday in a barracks yard, with the heat hanging over the sa squares, and the barracks all deserted as all are out to drill.Everything else seems to sleep.Then all one could hear was the drummers while the windos of the barracks are empty and dark while from some of them trousers are hanging to dry, the rooms being cool, and one looking tward them longinglyFinally he said aloud;"Oh dark musty platoon huts of Germany, with the iron bedsteads, the bedding, the lockers, and thestools.Even now you are an object of ardent desire out here you make us think of a resemblance of home, your rooms full of the smell of good food, sleep, smoke, and clothes.James painted it all in livelycolors. What would he not give to be able to go back home to Germany.But he could not persue that line of thought any fur further.He thought of the wearly morning morning instructions when brooming a German boyscout, the hours of physical training.All the boys began to indulge in reminiscences.Jack suddenly laughs right out and says;

"Chage at Hades."

That seemed to be the favorite game of every one now.Jack Said;

"I had an experience when I first became a scout.We were strictly drilled by one of the Princesses and once we had to learn passing through a subway. We had to go through a artifical tunnel made of hard paste board paper.,and each a each one of us boys stood at attention on the left side.Then came the command"forward" and like lightning every one rushed through to the opposite side.Once we practiced this for a whole hour."

"Surely the Vivian Girls were very different girls as mere citizens."

saidone of the boys."Then how does it come that they do all these dangerous things when it was better they should be home and let our armies fight it out with glandelinia."

"Yes and why are we boys and girls too in the army!" "said Jack."It's not only the Princesses its lots of others.If we children do not enter the christian army for better concord the enemy will make us think we swallowed Arsinic."I fell we have swallowed concrete."

"That's the uniform condition of the war."Jane suggested"Mildred Still says that our side is losing the war.She won't give up that opinion."

"Roughly speaking it is positive she is right just now."said Jack"But the root of the matter lies elsewhere..For instance) the flood conditions believed to have been produced by the enemy seems to prove this.Everywhere things are precisely the same.Our armies which are mobil mon mobolizing fast are not getting down here because of the flood, means of any kind of transportation cannot be had to convey the troops and it therefore seems we are the loser as Glandelinia has fullways of opening for moving her greatest armies.Glandelinia has turned into a beast her armies are baser than that, and her generals have full power to cary on the war as horrifying as they see fit.The mischef is merely that each one of the Glandelinian generals have too much power.The forest fire disasters are truly of Glandelinia's make, there is millions and thrillions of proofs of that but we have noevidence yet as to what the flood disaster came from and who was responsible or whether it was a work of nature blamed on the shocks of the war itself indirectly.Hundreds of thousands have gone mad, over their losses and our Emperor either wisely or foolishly allows no news or any news communications reach any of his armies about the disaster untill it can really be proved by evidence. and because the foe generals know they can make these forest fire disasters they all soon acquire the habit of forming conflagration after conflagration as fast as one can be kindled more or less.Take a simple case suppose we are forest fire rangers, here.We are marching back from just fightingone big fire dog tired, all in. We are glad enough to even be able to trail our tools and some of us sing but without spirit.Then cam comes the alarm of another fire.At once our company is turned about and has to do another terrible period of work untill we fall from exhaurtion and the fire tricks us and goes ahead.On the retreat back some of us are not quick enough and perish.We girl and boy scouts have the easiest of it all, though our work is perilous.Now what's the use of all this kind of war.It's simply that the Glandelinian generals are won't to destroy the very nature created by God Himself and the country has its head turned by having so much power.and really too the fault is our own careless governments of Calverinia Province, and her State Governers. and nobody seems to blame them and they still are overconfident. nd our generals too are not strict enough. That of course is a trifling instance but it holds also in many very different affairs.Now I ask you Mildred, yourself"Let any u of us be what we like in peace time what occupation there is in which he or she can behave like that without getting a crack on the nose.He can only do that in the army. The generals of the enemy armies are tryinically strict.It goes to the heads of them all you see.and the more sing insignificant a man of the enemy h as been in civil life too the worse commissions turns his head.The glandelinians are the worst people known.The world is astonished, appalled at the fury this war is taking on.Yet if it is not so, there are so far evidences that we are losing.Outside of Cedernine and some other places are armies as proved evidence shows are making no progress whatever, and Emperor vivian is threatened at Evangeline St Claire and has fought several small battles already without good results."

"Many say of course"there must be no chance for us to win"Said Mildred.

"True "growled Jack"They always did, papaers now are full of these reports and it grips me with dread.And it may be so, still it ought't to come to a sure thing yet.But you try to explain that to others and it would be in vain.The Vivian Girlsonce told me if the nation was to lose they would wi h with their parents fight to the last nevertheless.All that we under stand is that we have been properly trained so that when we com in as scouts we think we know exactly what we should do in every circumstance, and what not and find out we cannot get a chance to even think of doing it.It's simply amazing I tell you that any ordinary soldier survives so long in these dreadful frays, and goes through ot all without flinching.Simply a a amazing.But what would be the rest of the results if proved evidences came thatthe foe did makes these flood horrors, and the armies got the n ews of it.So far no one seems to understand a thing.The explosions at Abbisann are said to be of eruptions, James here says they were not.everyone knows that few of our volcanoes are ever dangerous and ta then such absurdities of their in jurying towns and cities is out of the question as there are no towns and cities too close to those mountains.If we have to win this war we will have to employ every means under every circumstances.But I don't believe we could lose.Abbisannis couldn't be beaten if ar cause was as wicked as glandelinia's.We just have to be patient and await developments that is all.Concentinian Aronburg is on his way from the north.He's coming now again to the front with an army.He has a grudge against Myletze and will some day engage him too.what others can do Concentinian Aronburg can.He does the almost impossible."

"..he flood has gone over all of the country and the army done it at all and at night while so many people were asleep.Gertrude Angeline Maintains that it was sheer causes of carelessness on the part of the Calverinian government,and that the aut aurthorities ought t i invent a method worthy of themselves for preventing such disasters in the future"said Jane Melfort."We have many men called Scientists who are looking for clues as to what the disaster really was and Mr Hendro Dargarh as hunted up one of the cleverest of scientst and sent him to do the work.The man could find no cluss and made or wrote statements to be published before the world that the explosions fourty miles north of Abbisann certainly were nothin g at all like volcanic eruptions, that no such thing occured.The man toowas disgusted that better evidence could not be found. Some others made efforts to trace the cause.The idea was ill concieved.Unfortuntely it accomplished nothing because the first assumption of it being of an eruption was wrong it was not ay volcanic disturban ce.Anyone who examined the "craters" could see that.Evenmiles away there was no sign of lava rocks.The debris wasmostly of earth materials and sandstone mud and slush.The matter ended that it was a freas freakish mystery.Meanwhile Dargar has tried to find out, and once spent twenty days since it occured---the day before we left to go here.We ourselves have been allotted tuone of the finest regiments of girlscouts known and are requested that is some of us to aid the Princesses when they try to in estigate themselves.We were due to start that work next month.If this proves to be done by the enemy Emeror vivian will let it call out to the armies and have the nation prepare itself to square accoun ts with Gladelinia.He has sworn f r for months past to do this sin e since the Lake Selicia horror occured.That we kn ow well was the enemys work as the doers had been captured forced to confess and sent to an island prison for l ife."

"Who captured them?" asked Mildred.

"I assisted though men did it"said Jack.O e of them however the head Glandelinian leves engineer escaped but we planned an ambush and got him.We knew which way he would have to go to ensnare him.There were four of us and we hid neara dark uninhebitated road.There we waited for him behind a number of trees, one of us hiding in a branch.A man by the name of Jose Martinis had a big potatoe sack with him.Of course we trembled with suspense hope hoping he would be alone.At last we heard his footsteps which one of us recognized easily. One of us whispered that he was alone.The strongest of the men slipped round a pile of stones with my brother another soldier.The Glandelinian engineer thikning no onenear seemd a little elevated(Too much drink) he was sink singing some Glandelinian love song.His belt buckle gleamed.He came on not suspecting any danger.The two men, the big men and my bto brother seized the huge potato sack, made squick leap threw it over his head from behind andpulled it r u round him so that he stood there in the white gray sack unable to raise his arms.The singing stonped.The next moment my brother was there and as the prisoner started to yell my brother reised his arm like a signal mast and his big handlike a coal shovel fetched such a blow on the top of the white sack as would have felled an ox .The Glandelinian engin eer was thrown down he rolled ten yards, ed again started to yell.But we were prepared for that and had brought a pillow. My brother squatted down laid the cushion on his knees felt where the prisoners head was and pressed it down on the pillow and immediately his voice was muffled.My brother let him get a gasp of air every so often, when he would give a mighty yell thatwas immediately hushed. F r First before turning him over to the aurthorities the man dei decided to whip him.

My brother unbottoned the rascals braces, and pulled down his trousers holding a long branch of a tree between his teeth.Then he stood up and set to work.Indeed it was to me a wonderful picture, the Glandelinian prisoner on the ground, my brother bending over him with a f e fiendish grin and his mouth open seemingly with blood lust the engineers head on his knees then the convulsed striped drawers, the crossed legs executing at every blow most orin original movements in the lower breeches and towering over them like a woodcutter my brother.In the end one of the soldiers had to drag him almost forcibly away to get his turn. inally after the three soldiershad done their best my brother s ood the engineer on his feet again and gave one last personalcremonstrance.As he stretchedout his left arm preparatory tovgiving him a good bang on the ear he looked as if he was going to kill him.The engineer staggered.My brother stood him up again made ready and fetched him another well aimed blow with the right hand.The engineer yelled and fell down on all fours cursing and blaspheming.We then hauled him to camp and put him under guard.As the engineer was placedunder guard my brother looked back and said angrily;;

"He will get his.No one never discovered whom they have had to thank for

his capture.At any rate n one of our officers scored a potato sack out of it for we forgot to take it off ur prisoner when we brought him into the tent."

Jack the three boys and the two girls still remained out here on in the old country ruins.They could hear the distant cannon still rolling though it was getting dark.They started to prepare for returning to the raft.It was a hot evening and the twilight seemed like a canopy under whose shelter they felt drawn together.They were soon on the raft again.Penrod who had been sullen during most of the day over the losses was in a good mood for once, and he had put on his new shoes to display them.The rowers were at work heading closer for a cove, and as the raft proceeded the floating flood debris bumped and rattled against it.Here the food flood was full of debris and those on board the raft did not dare show a single light as they lurched along, and once they accidentally crashed into some floating obstacle with such force that almost every one standing up were send sent rolling almost clear across the raft.However that did not seem to worry them now however, and one of the boys mentioned that it can happen it if itl ikes, and one jokingly remarked that that a broken arm is better than a hole torn in the body and many of the boys and girls felt thankful enough for such a chance of finding his way home again. Besides the floating raft streamed the debris in long columnxs and they seemed to be making the pace some overtake the raft going forward showing that the speed of the waters current had not diminished.A wall of trees ashore became visible, and they believed it belonged to a forest which was a portion of the "Red Riding Hood"woods.Jack who was onevening guard duty suddenly pricked up his ears.Was he decieved.Again he thought he heard a soun d like the cackle of geese.He gave a glance at Jane who passed him--a glance from her to him; they understood one another.

Suddenly Jane said to Mildred;

"Mildred dear I hear some beautiful things for the fry ing pan on the water."

Mildred only nodded.Then Penrod overh aring the remark said;

"That was not geese.I have their number.That's a signal on shore.It was from Glandelinians .I've given the orders to retrace westward."

"Of course Penrod was a clever shrewd boy on signals of all kinds.He knew all about a signal made from any one ,though it sounded like a bird, dog or cat or any.The raft began to move westward.Penrod looking with his glasses tward shore observed in the twighlight still remaining gun emplacements which appeared to be hidden by bushes against any observation from the water side.

"Those branches would seem gay and cheerful were not cannon placed there!" he said."And listen I hear heavy cannonading somewh re."

By this time the air had become acrid with the smoke of distant artillery and the fire fog.The fume ofpowder tasted bitter on their tongues and the roar of the distant guns made the raft though it was on the water sway and stagger, the reverberations rolling and raging away to the southeast ward, and everythin g seemed to quake.The faces of those on the raft changed imperceptibly.They were not indeed on anyportion of the dangerous battle shore but only on a floating raft yet every face could be easily read;

"This must be a nearness to the battle raging at Sanitary Creek, now we will have some details of it.However no one had any fear.Boys and girls who had seen many mighty conflicts as they had have become accustomed to it.Only young and new recruits would be agitated indeed.Jane explained to James who was listening closely"You hear first the explosions of shells, and afterwards ca comes the sound of the guns."

The hollower sound of the distant firing did not reach them distinctly it seemingly being swallowed up in the general murmur of other night battle sounds.The sound of the distant battle was restless, wild.

"I bet the Glandelinians are worsted already."said George." That sound is from christian guns.I know our own guns."

The shelling could be heard distinctly.Penrod and others listened and finally admitted that it was indeed the christian batteries to the right of where their shore part was. S ome of them believed the enemy might have attacked vivianis a hour too soon that morning before.

"There'll be a bigger fight on the same ground to morrow I tell you" said Penrod."I can feel it in my bones.Look out everyone of you duck quick.

As they obeyed three shells landed near the raft.The burst of flame shot across the smoke fog, and fragments howeled and d ondroned. but though no one was hit, they shivered and were glad to think they soon will be off shore and out of range.Their faces were neither paler nor more flushed than usual, indeed it appeared they were more tense, and yet they seemed changed.

Every one felt that in their very own blood a contact of some kind a feelin g of great danger had shot home..There was no means of speechs just then, and it was a fact.They were close to a portion of the Sanitary Creek Battle front and that of course to their idea made this said to be contact.The moment that some of the shells had suddenly whistle thistled over and the air was rent, with the explosions there was suddenly in their veins, in their hands, in their very eyes, and their senses, a strange tense waiting, a strict watching a profound growth and strange sharpening of their little senses.Even their bodies with one bound were in full readiness.It had often seemed to every of one of them as though it were the vibrating shuddering air that with a noiseless leap sprang upon them like a tornado or as though the very world it self omitted an elatric current which awakens unknown nerve centres. Every time it had been the same to them all.They had often started out in the christian armies prepatory to a battle plain child scouts, either cheerful or gloomy, then comes the first uproar of the conflict, their speech has a new ring, and officers order them to keep to the rear.When Angeline nichen would stand and say"There'll be a big and terrible battle"That was always her own opinion, but when she would say it elsewhere whilecne was raging then the sentence too seems to them all to stick into them like a bayonet in the dark, it would cut clean through their minds. thrusting nearer and nearer, and speaklike an unknown thing that awakens in them a dark and horrid meaning "There will be abig battle."Perhaps it was their inner and most secret life that shivers and falls on guard.No soldier fears a bullet, but a shell- ---oh.

To Jack ad his friends the whole war seemed to be a horrible dark bloody and fiery whirlpool as mysterious and horrifying as some of the dreadful scenes depicted in the stories of Hell by great writers especially like Miltens hell..He would sometims imgine of being in still water, far away from the centre of the maelstrome, though he would imgine of fooling the whirl of the vortex sucking him slowly, irrestibly inescapably into itself. From the earth,, from the air, sustaining forces seemed to him to pour into the nations mostly from the earth.Jack knew from what he had seen that to no man does the earth mean so much to the soldier under shell fire. When the soldier pressed himself dowj upon her long and powerfully, when the soldier buries his face and his limbs deep in her from the fear of horribly wounds or death by shell fire then evidently to him she is his own only friend, his loving mother he stifles his terror ad horror and he his cries in her silence and her security too, to him she is his shelter and she gives hime new lease of life recieves him again and often forever.Earth---Earth.---Earth.

"Earth indeed with thy folds, and hollows and ravines"said Jack to himself" into which many a shell terrified soldier may fling himself and in the fits of fear and terror crouch down under the screaming hail of annihilation in the bellowing death of the seas of explosions eruptions high, Oh Earth you sure grant to al of us the great resisting surge of new won life indeed.Every one of us utterly carried away by the indescribable fury of the war storm streams back through our mangled hands, from these,and we thy redeemed ones buryourselves in thee, and through thelong minutes in emute agony of hope bite into thee with our lips.."

Jack remembered too at the sound of the first droning ad screaming of the gang-gangshells he and many of his followers had rushed back terrified to anykind of shelter.By the instinct of danger that was awakened in him or his friends they seemed to be led and protected.It does not seem to be consciousness for it was always far quicker, much more less, fallible than consciousness.No one could explain it,. Jack remembered when he was walking along without thou h thought or head- -suddenly he had thrown himself down on the ground, there was an earsplitting xrash that shook the air like a million thunderclaps in one and a hurricane storm of shell fragments flow harmlessly over him---yet he could not afterwards remember either to have heard the gang gangshell coming or to have thought of flinging himself down, but had he not abandoned himself to the impulse he would now be a mangled bean of flesh.It seemed to be this other, this second sight this instinct that had thrown him to the ground and savee saved him without his knowing how.If it were not so there would be not one soldier of either side alive now.

The raft came close in shore now for about one thirddd of a stillemile mile all moody g ood tempered girls boys, and Abyssinkilian soldiers. They now expected they had reached what is known as the "Zone" where the war horror of all kinds begin and became on the instant as alert as cats.

Within their view though still in the increasing darkn ess they observed an indigent looking forest.Jack could observe the mist and smoke of guns lying breast high over far distant regions.There was no moon shining that night. Along some roads he could observe troops filing along, and thaiy their bayonets gleamed softly in the lightbef a distant forest fire indeed the heads and their rifles stood out above the white mist, nodding heads rocking carriers of guns.What soldiers they were or of what side Jack could; couldn't determine in the darkness.At some spots where the mist had cleared away heads became figures coats trousers, and boots appeared out of the mist as from a milky pool.They finally became a column.The columns c ntonued to march on, straight ahead, the figures resolved themselves into a sort of block, and then individuals were no longer to be recognized, the dark wedge was still pressing onward fantastically topped by the heads and was one floating off as if on a milky pool.It appeared like a strange column or army of ghosts, not men at all.

Big cannons and minution wagons were also seen by him moving along a cross road and the backs of the artillery and gun carriage horses were shining strange in the red glare, their movements seemed beautiful to him, t some were tossing their heads, and their eyes seemed to gleam.Indeed to Jack the gun s and the wagons seemed to floated before the dim back groun d of the shore the riders in their large sailor like hats resembling soldiers of some forgotten time, it was strangely beautiful and arresting.

The raft was still pushed on till it reached the cove.Jack saw some of the soldiers loaded with pointed and twisted iron stakes.As he looks he s aw that the ground seemed more broken and from some of the men Jack heard warning words;

"Look out, deep pits on the left"Mind Glandelinian gunners."Jack wondered what was wrong.In the meantime it had become pitch dark and an uncertain red glow was spreading along the entire skyline in the east from one end to the other and it was in perpetual motion punctuated with many bursts as if of flame apparently from the muzzles of the christian batteries.Strange balls of light were rising high above it; silver and red spheres which exploded and rained down showers of red white and green stars.Many rocets went up which seemed to unfold a silk parachute light to the air and drifted slowly and gracefully down.These were lighting up everything as bright as day their ling lights shining even on the raft and the boys saw their own shadows sharply outlined on the raft flooring.The lights hovered for the space of over three minutes before they burned out but immediately fresh ones would shootup in the sky, and again stars of all colors.

"Those are the enemy signal lights."said James to Jack."I know them well."

The thunder of the guns were swelling to a single heavy roar, and then broke away into separate long rolling explosions while from some close spot they could hear the dry bursts of di machine guns rattling.Above them the air teemed with invisible swift movements, with howls, piping, shrieks, and hisses, making many flashes like lighting lightning, and noise as if a thunder storm had lost its "senses". They were evidently the smaller shells, and among them indeed booming through the night like a volcano of flame and din went the high explosives.Sometimes they had a hoarse distant bellow like a rutting stag and made their way high above the howl and whistle of the smaller shells.It reminded Jack of enormous flocks of wild geese when he heard them.even the enemy searchlights began to sweep the dark sky and slided along it like gigantic tapering rulers .One of them paused on and quivered a little, then immediately a second was beside it.

CHAPTER THIRTY ONE.

TOO MUCH SHELL FIRE.
OTHER STIRRING HORRORS.
GERTRUDE ANGELINE TRIES HER HAND AT SOMETHING..

While it was being placed there some of the men set to work on a portion of the raft injured by some of the minor collisions.Two men held a roll and the others spooled off the raft wiring.It indeed was that awful stuff with close set long spikes, and some of those who were nit not used to unrolling it tore their hands.After a few hours it was finished.most of the boys and girls not on night duty lie down to get some sleep.Jack too sleeps, and James tries to but it was too warm.Once however he did succeed in fallling asleep.Then he was awakened suddenly with a start, and for a moment he did not know where he was. He saw the "shooting stars" the glare of rockets and for a moment had the impression that he had fallen asleep during a Fourth of July Performance in the United States.He forgot whether it was morning or evening, and he lay still in the pale cradle of the glare light, and listened for some words which he hoped would come, softer and nearer ---and he wondered too if he was crying.He put his hands to his eyes, it was so a fantastic.Smooth stin, it only lasted a second then he recognized the silhouette of the distant woods.Near James sat Jane and when she observed that the German lad was awake she said;

"I suppose that shell there gave you a fright.It didn't come here, it landed in the bushes over there."

James startled at this sat up, and felt himself strangely alone.He felt glad that his girl friends were on board the raft.He gazed thoughtfully at the east as she said"

"Those would be mighty fine fire works if they were not quite so dangerous my boy."

One landed in the water behind the raft.Two boys jumped up terrified and an order was issued to sent the raft off shore westward.while the order was being carried out another one came over nearer this time.Then the horror began in earnest.The raft was merely crawling out away fromshore as it seemed as well as it could in its haste.The next shell landed fair on the raft.Two soldiers cried out and fell into the water, then green rockets began shooting up on the sky lines, while the boom of the guns were heard long after the roar of shell explosions.

Beside where Gertrude had been lying to try and get some sleep and to ease the pain of her leg lay a fair headed boyscout in utter terror.He had buried his face in his hands, and his cap had fallen off.James fished hold of it and tried to put it back on his head.He looked up pushed the cap off and like a child crept under his arm his head close to James'zs breast.The little shoulders heaved,shoulders just like those of a little girl.James let him be.So that the cap should be of some use James hung it up i on a post.winally there was another crash and someone shouted;

"It got somebody pretty badly alright.Other cries were head between the crashing explosions.Then for several moments it began to grow quiet, and it seemed whether the fire had been directed at the raft or not, it had apparently stopped.The more braver risked to take a look.Red rockets still sho shot up into the sky, and James believed that the battle may rage close by.Penrud ordered the raft to beplaced closer in shoe behind a bluff to be out of range..James sat upand shook the terrifid boyscout by the shoulder.

"I believe it is all over boy.Everything is quiet and we are under shelter this time.You'll get used to it soon.None of us boys were hit."

The boy observed his cap hanging by a nail on a post and put it on .Gradually he was coming to, and then suddenly he turned fiery red and looked confused. Jamesunderstood.The boy was brave but shell shells was a terror to him.

"This is no disgrac "James assured him."Many's even the man befre you who has had been scared stiff by such noise untill he gets used to.Go to your bunk and try and get some sleep.Get along."

The boy went off.The sound of battle became still quieter but the cris on shore did not cease.

"what's up now Jack ?"James asked looking in that direction.

"A couple of columns of soldiers probably have got it good."he answered.

The cris continued more wildly. It was not the sound from men, in dead wild beast could not cry so terribly.

"It sounds like wounded artillery horses."said Jane."I know the cries of horses."

The sound became most unendurable indeed, and also their was something of an uproar like the moaning of the world world, a mary martyred creation and a seething hell at the same time, everything wild with anguish, filled with terror, and groaning mingled with the roar of some distant and fierce assault made by numberless troops in battle. All those who were awake and heard the cries and all the other noises were pale, and James stood up.

"For heavens sake someone shout those horses."Shouted Penrod loud enough to be heard on shore."Shout them or we'll shoot you."

Penrod was the son of a farmer and he was very fond of horses, and therefoure the sound was getting on his nerves..Then as if deliberately the distant firing began to din down again but thescreaming of the poor beasts became louder, and no one could hardly distinguish whence in this now quiet region the sound came, ghostly, invisible, seemingly ever wh everywhere, between h a heaven and earth is rool rolled on most immeasureably.Penrod raved, and yelled out as loudly as he could;

"Shoot them, shoot them you heartless, crazy fools, shoot them can't you.Have you no heart.Dern you foolish imps shoot them."

"They must look after the fallen men first."said Mildred quietly.

Some of the boys and girlscouts, and even the soldiers on the raft get on high parts and try to see where the noise came from.

"If we could only see the poor animals we would be able tooud endure it better"said James.

Jack who had a pair of glasses looked, and saw a dark group, bearers with stretchers, and larger black clumps of something moving about which evidently were the fallen and wounded horses. not not all of them.some galloped away in the distence, fell down, and then ran on further and disappeared .The belly of one coming to the water front was soon ripped open the entestines trailing out.He became entangled in them and fell, and then stood up again. One of the boyscouts raised his rifle and took aim but Jack hit it up in the air and said excitedly;

"Vincent are you crazy.The rifle shot will bring fire upon us."

Vincent trembled and threw his rifle to the floor.Everyone awake sat n and held their ears, but these appalling noises, those terrible groans, and screams penetrated everywhere. Girl and boy scouts could hear most anything but this was too much..They felt like getting up and running away no matter where but where those cries could no longer be heard.and it was not from men, but only horses.From the dark group stretchers moved off again.Then single shots began to cr crack out.One black heap was for a moment convulsed and became thinnerAt last, but still it was not the end..The soldiers cannot could not overtake the wounded beasts, which flew in their pain, with their wide open mouths full of anguish.One of the soldiers went downon his knee there was a shot, one horse dropped, then another.The last one was propping himself on his forelegs and dragging himself round in a circle like a merry go round, squatting, it dragged itself round in circles on its stiffened forelegs, apparently its back was broken..A soldier ran up ad shot it.Slowly and humbly it sank to the ground. The boys and girls took their hands from their ears, the cries now being silenced only a long dr w drawn strange sigh stilling hanging on the air, while only the rockets, the singing of the shells, and the fire stars which shown out wonderfully.

Penrod was steadily walking up and down mutterin g something to himself. "Like to know what harm the poor horses have done to them"he said to himself. His voice was agitated, and it sounded almost din dignifind as he finished with;"I'll tell you all it is the vilest baseness indeed to be forced to use horses in war.."

Penrod decided that it was time to go in closer to shore since the noise had stopped as it would be equally as dangerous to be out on the water at night.

"It is time we got into some sort of a shelter"he said."The sky is becoming somewhat brighter from the distant fire glows.It is already about nine oclock. Gosh hang it r wish the breeze would be fresh and cool for a time at least as it is so confounded hot."

" Those who were to relieve the others at the oars trudged single file down the length of the raft.Jane herself seemed to be restive, and that was usually a bad sign especially when even she looked nervious.

."What is up now do you think Miss Halfort"asked Jack.

"I wish I were back in the christian lines."

"This won't last much longer Jane.It'll be over before midnight,.Battles don't always raged all night you know."

Yet it was evidene evident that she for some very good reason was very nervious. "I don't know."she said." Battles a dangerous thing, and I'm afraid we w are too close."

They were now close enough to be within sight of the near battlelines which were somwhere near the creesek in the open fields.A small section of a distant woods could be seen, Jack believed heknew every foot of the ground here.Beyond was a large cemetery cemetery mostly for children who had died for they could see the Raligh religious monuments and the Crucifixes.Just as the raft was almost close enough behind a bluff to be beached the horror again broke out beyond them, swelling and roaring fearfully, and thundering in such frightful crashes, as forone crash alone to be heard for fourty miles. Every one on the raft suddenly ducked down as an ormormous cloud of flame shot up a hundred yards ahead of them on land, followed by a crash that convulsed the raft like an earthquake.The next minute under a second explosion part of the distant woods rose slowly but high into the air, seven or eight trees sailing up and then crashing into pieces.The shells screamed and hissed and ro ro roared like safty valves, it was indeed heavy fire and there came cries on the shore far off but within easy hailing distance;

"Take cover everybody.Take co cover.The Christian dogs are shelling us."

The fields within sight were flat, the woods were toodistant for the men to reach and indeed too dangerous at that- --the only cover for the enemy was the immense grave yards, some mounds, and a ravine close by.Jack saw a number of men run and stumbled across the dark and as though spirited away every man was suddenly lying as if glued behind any object of protection possible. And Jack from his place of concealment observed that it was not a moment too soon soon.The very night, the skies, and the darkness of the cu countryside seemed to go mad it a hellish din.The earth seemed to heave and to rave.parknesses blacker than thenight rushed on the very concealment with giant strides, over them ad and away.The flames of the explosions lighted u up the graveyards, the flood waters, and the whole landscapes. Thousands of crazily thundering eruptions tore the earth at one time with a inmera ima ormeable din.Outhere there was no escape anywhere.By the light of the banging shells, Jack tried to get a view of the fields and the woods and all the country.He was frightened.Could hell be worse.Everything before his gaze beyond was nothing but a surging sea of horror, daggersof flame from the explosions leaped up like countless fountains, and the noise s was more than he could hardly stand.It was impossible for anyone to break through it.The nearest portion of the woods vanished, it was pounded, crushed, torn to pieces.On the shore close to the raft a "volcano broke out" and a storm of debris fell over every one follow followed by a noise that made them believe the world had torn in pieces.Penrod warned every one not to expose themselves and to keep within the shelter of the bluff. The earth again burstsd before them.It rained clods over the raft.Jack felt a smack as a deafening thundering crash filled his ears.his sleeve was torn away by a shell splinter.He suddenly shut his fists. There was however no pain but for a moment that did not reassure him for he knew that wounds didn't hurt untill the excitement died down.He then felt his arm all over and found it was grazed but sound.There was at that moment a crack overhead as if a thousand thunderclaps had com into one deafening boom.The flash was blinding and he recieved a crack on the skull and he began to lose consciousness.Then like lightning the thought came to him"Don't faint, sink down in the black brother dear boy and immediately come up to the top again.A splinter of something carried his cap away.An explosion occured in the water and a flood of spray and wet mud poured over the raft, a veritible cloud burst.To move from behind the bluff was now suicide.Penrod was wiping the mud out of his eyes. A hole was torn up in the ground to the left of the raft.Jack saw a man with one bound fly fling himself down.Most of those on the raft were lying as flat as a fish, there the high explosive whistled again, quickly some of the boys crouched closer together , and they see many clandelinians on shore clow for cover, the earth leaped the blast thundered in every ones ears.Jack saw a man close to the edge of the shore creep under some yeilding thing cover himself with it drawing it over himself, but Jack believe it would do the man no good for it was only wood , cloth cover, cover miserag i miserable cover indeed against the whizzing splinters.An explosion hurls an object onto the raft.Jacks fingers grasped a sleeve as it fell beside him an arm.He wondered if it was a wounded man.Jack yelled to him but no answer cam and finally he realized it was a dead man.His little hands grouped furthe r

and he felt splinters of new kind of wood, and believe it was a corpse hu l hurled from the grave yard.The shelling beyond was stronger now than anything, the din seemed about to wipe out the sensibilities. Then came a tremendous eruption in the flood and almost a tidal wave swamps the raft.Then Jack got struck in the face a hard clamped on to his shoulder and he wondered if the noise had not brought the dead man to life. A moment later a hand shook him, and jack turned his head and in the second duration of light found himself staring into the face of George Vincent.It was evident he had his mouth open wide for he was yelling something.Jack could hear nothing so lo ud was the noise but in a momentary lull his voice reached Jack;

"Get closer to the bluuf .Get closer to the bluff."

"Jack obeyed grabbing for his rifle as he did so.Some distance from him lay some other boy and Jack thought of nothin g else but this"That fellow there must know."Gatout of sight you fool." Jack called, leaned tward him, he hurled a piece of wood at him but he didn't see, once again, and still again Jack threw something, but the lad thought it was hurled baby shells and merely ducked----Jack looked at Jane desperately but he crawl e crawled forward, and reached the man and finally got him to move closer to the bluff.Then came the sharp noise of sputtering shrupnell mingled with the continual crash of the gung-shell high explosives.Another person came plump down beside Jack, and another. It was James and another soldier and three others, even a little girl whom he couldn't recognize.All of them now lay there in heavy watchful suspense, and breathe as lightly as possible.Those first minutes of the close but distant horror was to decide between light and death.The fumes of the shell smoke crept over the waters and like a big soft y jelly fish it floated over the raft and lolled there obscenely causing them to cough.Jack nudged Jane saying it is better to crawl close to the edge than to stay where the smoke collectedmost.But they could couldn't go any furth r b further and it was no longer that the shells were roaring and thundering it seemed as if it was the wh earth that was raging volcanoes.

With a an unusual crash so e something black and horrid bore down from the sky upon the raft, and it landed in the middle of the raft.It was a big rock no doubt hurled high into the air by the tremendous explosions.Jack saw George move and he too crawled across.The rock had hit one of the boyscouts on his outst retched arm.He was trying to get to his feet, but James seized him just in time twisted the good han d or arm sharply behind the lads back and held it fast, while Jack and Jane and a dozen others proceeded to free the wounded boy.Fortunately the boy was swooned and some of the men comingup were soon landing a a hand, and no longer t did they need to be careful but worked away till the stone gave with a thud.pistant fires made it grow lighter.James took a large splinter of wood and placed it under the shattered arm, and Jane wrapped a lot of bandages around it.For a moment then no one could do anything more..A big cloud of smoke came over the waters, stifling and fumed and Jacks headseemed to boom and roar it was nigh bursting.His lungs felt as if they were tight, the veins on his temple were swollen, and he felt tha he was suffo cating.A tw cific red light filtered through the trees to the raft, and as the shelling had ceased Jack cli crawled over to the edge of the raft.In the dirty red glare he could see close to the shore some mand mans leg torn off clean, the boot was quite whole he could take that all in at a glance. Now he observed som some one stand up a few yards distant and then disappars.Jack could see he wore a grey uniform and was tempted to shoot but did not do so.The shelling evidently has ceased and so all the others who had been lying flat on the raft stood up glad it was over, and sent some one to tell others.The soldiers lifted up the wounded boy one taking his splintered arm and stumbled off hastily to one of the shell proof huts on the raft.The distant landscape ad woods were a mass of wreckage and so was the childrens cemeteries.Coffins and corpses of little ones and even skeletons lay about.Hedges were destroyed the rails of a railroad were torn up ad and rose stiffly in the air in great arches.Some man close to the waters edge was seen lying on the ground.And he did not seem to be wearing a grey uniform but that of scarlet.Jack and some of the other boys, and Jan Jane melfort took the chances of rowing ashore.When they beached they found that the man was a Glandelinian a recruit too but wore a blushing grey uniform.His hip was covered with blood and he appeared so exhausted that Jack felt for his water bottle where he had rum and vigigar.Jane restrained Jacks hand and stooped over the soldier.

"Where's it got you Mr Glandelinian?"

He did not answer, but his eyes moved, he was too weak to speak.

J ack cut off his trousers carefully.The man groaned;

"Gently, please kead, gently, it is much better;"

"Hold still"commanded Jack or I won't be able to do a thing I'm not going to hurt you.""If he has been hit in the stomach he mustn't drink anythin g"said James."

"I don't think he has"said Jane"You see he is not and has not been wounting.That is a very good sign."

The two boys laid the hip bare, and recieved a shock.They in know now the horrors of shell fire.The wounship was one mass of mince meat, and bone splinters. His joint had been hit.

"This man won't walk any more"Said Jack his face white."Foolish bomb to fight against christian armies.Why didn't he stay home."

Jack wetted his temple withhis moistened handkerchief and gave hima swig. George who was on the other side saw now that the mans arm too was bleeding as well.Jane spread out two large wads of dressing as wide as possible so that they will cover the wounded arm and hip.James looked for something to bind loosly round it.They however had nothing more, so he slit up the m wounded soldiers trouser leg still farther in order to use a piece of his underpants as a bandage but find he is wearing none.James now looked at him closely.He was very young, a man probably not yet in the twenties, a fa fair headed boy of a little while ago .

"Too bad he is a foe"said Jack.

In the meantime Jane had taken a bandage from a dead soldiers pocket and she carefullly bound the wound. Then she said to the Glandelinian youngster who looked at her fixedly;

"We are going to the raft for help now.We'll have to bring you there."

"He then cried out as best as he could;

"You are a good christian dog after all.Please stay here.Don't leave me alone."

"We'll be back soon"said Jane"We are only to get some help for you.We kids can't carry you as you are.You'll need a stretcher."

He didn't seem to understand.He whimpered like a ch d child and plcue plucked at her leg;

"Please doj don't go away".

Jane looked around desperately and whisphred;

"Wouldn't it bejust to take a revolver and put and end to it?"

"No I'm afraid not"said Jack."

"Yes, but the youngester will die anyway and willhardly survive the carrying, and at the most he will only last a few days.what he has gone through so far is nothing to what i he is in for till he dies.Now he is numb and feels nothing.In an hour after he is on the raft he will become one screaming bundle of pain intolerable pain.Every day that he can live will be a howlong torture.And to whom does it matter whether he ha s them or not, but I don't to have a screaming patient on the raft."))

Jack Nodded"Yes Jane we ought to put him out of his misery but I'm afraid it's wrong just the same.We must let our priest on the raft or the doctor decide that for us."

Jane stood still for a moment.It seemed she had to first make up her mind.Jack looked around---and saw they were no longer alone.A little group of soldiers had com ashore in another boat with a stretcher and the one wounded prisoner was brought aboard.

Jack shook his head.

"such fools these Glandelinians are. To suffer chances for such orrible wounds in this war.It is better they quie quit and go home."

Gertrude found that her losses on the raft from the bombardment was less than was expected, only two missing and the one wounded boy in the arm.It was the concluding part of the first days battle no doubt for now everything was still.The wounded boy and the prisoner were taken to the dressing tent on the raft, and the doctor called.The night was smoky from fires.Those hearing the wounded to the raft station made a fuss about numbers and tickets, while the wounded whimper.The wind began to rise and the smoke being blown from the east became heavier. Gertrude gave the orders that the raft should go for open water where there would be less smoke, and as the raft went forth moslt most of them on board rocked to and fro in a half sleep.

Two tall men in the front of the big raft who had long forked p'l poles were watching for telephone wires which sometimes were hanging crosswise over the flood so densely that they might a easilypull some ones head off.The two soldiers take took them always at the right moment ontheir poles and lifted them over behind them.Many who were on night duty always heard the call;

"Mind wires" and hand down. Monotonously the raft was swaying in the waves of the flood, monotoniously came the c ll, monotunously came the smoke fog.It spread overhead in rolls and over the heads of the dead on shore, on the body of the wounded Glandelinian prisoner with the wound that is too much big for his hip it fell on the dead of both sides on lan d it overshrouded the hearts of every one.An explosion again sounded somewhere.Those on board who

heard it winged their eyes became more tense, they were ready to throw themselves flat but only again came the monotonous cry"wind wires" and all are again half asleep.

If it was not one exciting thing that keeps any one else awake at night it was another. soldiers, and others even in the christian armies and even child and other scouts usually have their their peculiar little friends with them, and therefore it must be said that for any one kept busy killing each seperate little friend of this kind is a tedious business when a person may have hundreds.The little beasts were found to be hard and the ever lasting cracking with your finger nails very soon becomes dreadfully wearisom.

Go t Gertrude and her followers had these little friends.So Gertrude in the center of the raft had rigged up the lid of a boot polish tin with a piece of wire over a lighted lighted candle, and by her comrades therefore who were kept so busy the "cooties"were simply thrown into this little pan. Crack and they were done for.

Every one therefore were compelled to sit up quite a time of the night the boys with their shirts on their knees their bodies naked to the warm night air and their hands at work, while the girls worked inside their tat tata tents.James declared that he had a fine particularly brand of louse, that they had dark crosses on their backs.To make a joke he said he meant to use the fat that slowly accumulated in the tin lid for ploishing his boots, and roared with laughter for fifteen minutes at his own joke joke.But he didn't have much success that day the others were too preoccupied wi with another affair. A rumour had materialized .Hylotzes had left Cannonia to himself to go to a certain location to get reinforcing armies; and Vivlania was taking advan tage of it.Jack suggested that before he's through Cannonia will meet some surprises.James had been mediating for hours that day before what to say to him if he had Cannonia a prisoner.One of the soldiers had gazed at his big hands and winked at Jack.A good thrashing would be a good high water mark of Cannonins life.Jack said he often dreamed of it, and other were imagining themselves about it.Feeling hungry tward early morning about four; Penrod had secured for himself a mess tin full of beans.Jack squinted hungrily into it but checked himself ad and said;

"Penrod what would you do if it were suddenly peace time again!"

"I won't return to civil life."said Penrod bluntly.

"Well but if"persisted Jack "What would you do."

"clear out of this part of the country "growled George.

"Of course ad tyo then what!"

"Probably go home again.""said James.

"Don't talk rot"I mean seriously!;-)"

"So do I "said James"What else should I do!"

Gertrude who had been standing outside and who had overh ard the conversation had become interested..First she li levied tribute on Penrods tin of b beans, swallowed some, and then considering for a short space of time finally said;

"You might wait for your discharge papers first of course, and then you'd take the next train for home and mother, that is if you can get a train.Peace time by boy is Heaven---" she fumbled in her oil cloth pocket book for a photograph and suddenly showed it all around."These were my parents before they died, and you see with them me and my sisters.There's Annie and Anna."Then she put it back hand said;"This is a dreadful war."

"It's all very well for you to talk."Mildred told her."You've an uncle and two sisters still li living .One of them you know very well what she is doing but you do not want any one to know."

"Tro True "she nodded."and I have to see to it that she keeps her disguise perfect till the time comes she will reveal herself....."

Every one laughed.

"She won't lack for that, Gertrude, she's do well for that."

Jack however was insatiable and gave himself no peace whatever.He awoke Madden out of his sleep."Madden what would you do if it was now time for the time of peace."

"Out an old suit of overalls on you and send you to the farm for the way you talk."said Jane."How will it come about exactly.Miraculously I suppose?"

"How does the cow jump over the moon!"retorted Penrod laconically/ly laconically, and turned to Madden himself.It was too much for Madden for he shook his freckled head.

"You mean when this darned war is over!"

"Exactly you have said it."

"Well I'd be home with my parents again."

"Sure."

"By jove yes." said the boy, his f a face melting.just think what home would [illegible] ."

For a short while every one was silent . To picture such a good thing was too good.They felt their very flesh creep.At last Jack pulled himself together and said;

"And then what."!

"There was a pause.Then James explained ra ther awkwardly;

"I might choose to know more about your country, and stay here and serve in the army all my life, since I'm alone now."

"James my German Indyou surely got a screw loose some where.No one is able to serve in an army all their lives.They don't live that long."said Penrod.

"Have you ever dug post in the Mazurian Lakes!" he retorted good naturedly.

"No, but I have in this country."answered Jack.

"You try it there just once."

"Why would yo I sink down!"

"No you'd sink up."

There was a scream of laughter atthis joke in which nearly every one joined.

Then James pulled a spoon out of the top of his boot and reached over into Penrods mess tin .

"Anyway it can't be worse than digging trenches." Jack ventured.

James chewed and grinded."It lasts longer though,and you got to wear heavy large shoes or you'd get such disease.And there'sno getting out of it either if you don't stay on the more solid parts as you din die into the soft."

"But James surely its better home the than in the army."

"Maybe it is"said James, and with wide open mouth sank into a dream. Any one could almost fancy what he was thinking.

"But in the peace time "said Jack the army is a splendid thing."In the army you have nothing to trouble about, you find your food good ad cooked well every day, you're well bed, every week clean Underwear like a perfect gent you do your non come duty, you have a good suit of army clothes, and a fine uniform and in the evenings and holidays, and Holydays you are free as if you were rich.Army life for me is the barrics, but nohot how though.It's hell."

Jack seemed to be extraordinarily set on this idea indeed he seemed in to e love with it.

"and when you serve till you are old, and you get your pension you can become a village owner, and you can walk about the whole live long day."

James was already swaying on it"

"And just you think "continued Jack"How you have been already treated by us in the child scout army.Friends and so forth no trouble no quarrels, no scoldings.Children fight each other in Germany don't they!Yes.Well not here unless they are children of the side we are fighting, that is their scouts.Every body wants to be a saint in our armies and we Hope to succeed."

"You'll never be a better boyscout than you are now though Jack" interrupted Gertrude.

"Why!"

"You couldn't be better."

Jack looked at her almost sadly and was silent.She knew.His thoughts still lingered overthe c o cl ar evenings in summer at better times, the Sundays when he attended Mass as an Alter boy, the village church bells he used to hear, the afternoons and evenings with his servant friends and)"

"he couldn't part with all these dreams so abruptly and Jack merely growled;

"What silly things you say Gertrude," and he pulled his shirt over his head, having gotten rid of the cooties, and buttoned up his tun c tunic.

"What would you do Jane?"Jack continued to ask.

"See to it that many Masses of Thanksgiving are said."Then to James she said warmly"If I were in your place I'd stay in the army as a scout for a long time and get some good training. Then you would be fit for anything. If you had been in the army lon g enough already you would be able to help us grind general Manley till the "wheels"in his head spined themselves to pieces."

"And you Mildred!"Asked Jack as if he was becoming very inquisitive.Indeed Jack seemed to be a born school master with all his questions.Mildred however seemed to be sparing her words but this time she answered.She looked at the sky and said only;

"I would go straight on believing I was in heaven, and that this being purgatory I had just left." Then she got up and walked off. Indeed for some reason Mildred seemed worried.She feared always that her speechs about the Glandelinian side winning the war would come all too true.Every day she read the strange telegraphic reports, that came to see whether there was any sign of the dreadful floods abating But no good news even filtered in yet. At this moment Angeline Jennings appeared.

At the sight of her Jo on face slightly turned red;she was stretching his length on the raft as he looked up in embarrassment.Then every one stood up as was the custom.Jones looked at her with interest.He held up it was the first time she had come so close.She continued to stand in front of them and waited pondering on something.Apparently it seemed she didn't know what to do or say for a few seconds.Of course Miss Jol Jennings would like most of all to get everybody on shore for a while, but now she seemed to have discovered from recdent experiences that it was more dangerous on shore than on the w ter.She tried to suggest it though, and by addressing herself to one of the boys instead of all of them hoped to get some reason as Jones was nearest and so she favored him first.

"Will you are not going to sleep too?"

"No"He answered the "the night is too exciting "He retorted."

"She looked surprised."You surely don't recognize further dangers from shore do you?"

"Fred now opened his eyes.

"I do though."

Angelin turned to him" So you do too Fred?"

The boy lifted his head, sid and rising stood up.

"And do you know what we are up to if we go ashore.The enemy are close to us.We are on their raft"

Angelina Jennings looked disconcerted.She didn't ex ect that there was any dangers on shore.But nevertheless she was and is on her guardians she had recently spoke about that if the enemy knew the raft with them was so close it would be just too f bad for all on board.

"since when could be be so perilous"she asked." I don't remember that the enemy has won any fighting to my according to the tel grapic"

This question made Fred surprised so surprised that sh he became almost witty!

"No but if you don't believe its risky take a look with the glasses."

Angelina began to suspect, but Jones cut in ahead.He said;

"Wouldn't you like to know what's over on the shore? wire a shot in the direction of those dirty hounds and we'll all get a good and worthy reception."

Suspecting the truth Angelina Jennings began to boil.The suspici n suspicionb of so many unseen dangers aemand to whim n in her eyes as she heard Jack also say;

"The dirty hounds make war on children.We are less safe out there now that the soldiers are."

Then Angelina jennings let fly too hard.

"You boys are right."The mick rats child killers are always after us children whether we are scouts or not.But duty calls and we are small soldiers and sometimes have to take the chances.The glandelinians are a raging army of fiends in human fo form.Even the we n warrior himself couldn't be more insulted than to see the glandelinian hang h n own daughters.But where we have the raft it is equally as danger.I would suggest to Fedrod to move far out on the water then."

"Anything else we could suggest?" asked James.

"Yes.We all should be going home."

"But then we'll all be court marshaled."declared Jack.

They watched her disappear in the direction of Gertrudes own tent; Jack seemed troubled."If we did go ashore the situation for us would be pretty serious serious."

"Do you think it would be as dangerous at that even in the night?"

"Sure to be"said Mildred."Since the shelling I'm afraid to go to sleep again."

"The least we can expect is to go to heaven if we are killed"said James

That didn't e seem to worry or change the others."Anyway if we died we would be looking down on the war from heaven."

"And if we went to purgatory first."Mured the thou thoroughgoing Jack.

"Well for the time being the war could be fought between us down there as far I'm I' concerned."

Mildred indeed was a "cheerful"scout.There seemed to be no worries from her at all and often she could be seen going off with Jane or Jack so that it was not easy to find her in the first flush of excitement; Jack however was not finished with his own questioning yet.He tackled James this time.

"James suppose you were go ing home again what would you do?"

James seemed to be more contented now than before and more accommodating.

"No any of us girls and boys are there on this raft exactly?"He asked."That is not counting me as I'm not a scout yet?"

They counted up as far as they could figure, out of two hundred and fifty twenty are dead, fourty wounded one deserted in madness, and the coward Jack Saunders.Three of them main captains, and Gertrude and Angelina Jennings the princess remains."

"We are not so badly off at that."said Jack."Do you think we could go to school again some day even in the army?"?

"I cannot, we couldn't hire a teacher to come to the army for that matter to teach us."

"What do you mean by Three taim are Sixty"said James reminiscently, and roared with laughter.

"What was the purpose of Napoleon discovering America and Columbus trying to conquer the world?" asked James suddenly and earnestly.

"How many children did Charles the Bald ant?" Mildred interrupted ran ly gently.

"We'll never make good schollins in our lives"laughed Jack"why I insist that I discovered America.I'm aColumbus, and you James is Napoleon."

"Which Nap i Napoleon, the one h who Napole or who took the home apart?"

"No the one who took France to St Lucifer."said another with a loud laugh.

"When was the battle of Waterloo and where?" Jane wanted to kn ows

was fought on Mt Rhine in Chicago in America."said another.

"Well we all lack the studious mind"said James.

"What office did the King of England consider the most important for his throne?" asked Jack, pretending to write down some figures, which looked more like drawing a pig headed picture of Manley by hold of candle light.

"Any office as long as se he could sit down one ta-k"some one said.

"Does it no, The glandelinians love to kill children and home also in the world, "or we children like to shoot glandelinians and---and---and,,,---)) I give in.

"How many inhabitants has Calverinia?",asked Jane.

"How do you expect to succeed in life if you don't know that?"Jean asked.

"How could I know when Manley gives us too much water.What is mean by flood, fire, sword, and and Flood Cohesion!!!"

"Anything as long as Manley knows how to swallow some of the water."

Of course despite all these foolish anything, they really done it on purpose. This was just for fun.They knew great deal of their lessons, their map reading and so on or they couldn't be scouts.They even knew how to forcibly light a match in a storm of rain how a fire could be made with partly wet wood and how to doctorone another if hurt or sick and too many other thin gs to tell here.

"Well what's the use"said Jack thoughtfully."We'll have to go back and sit in the school benches again.Why I must even ask this question.Are there seven Vivian Girl Princesses or a Hundred?"

"I consider that out of the questions."Answered Mildred"If I tell you how many I think you'll have me make a special examination for my dumbell heads."

"You need need preparation.If you do get through what then There are seven Vivian G r Girl Princesses eve- everywhere."

"Well that's a bit better"declared Mildred."But it seems unusual just the same.How can the Vivian Girls be everywhere."?

"Well how can the Glandelinians take their work against them seriously when once they have the Vivian Girls prisoners, later find they're out and spying on some other spot.Can you catch and hold an ell by the naked hand?"

"Yes if you have glue on the hands.Still the Princesses must have an occupation of some sort"s insisted Jack, as though he were a teacher himself. then he proceeded to clean his finger nails with his own knife.He then put the knife away again and continued."That's just it.Capture the Vivian Girls if any one can and hold them long.We can disguise ourselves and do it. We'll t ke them on this raft bound hand and foot and ground properly.We'll leave them under guards.Then leave them thinking they're safe with us as as prisoners.Later we find the guards knocked out, and the prisoners gone and probably important papers too.How can any one explain that?")) and Jack made a gesture toward the shore.

"Well to any glandelinian their capture or destruction would bring aground private income as a reward, and he would be al mile to live like a king.But I'd be ashamed of such an absurd idea of capturing them.Why the enemy has n ever succeeded in capturing any one of us and we are different than Violet and her sisters who are more experienced than we.If we cannot be captured and held how can the enemy expects expect the earn with them."?

"What will really happen when the Prince eases in their pronound investigations discover it was the enemy who was responsible for the floods?" wondered James and even he seemed troubled.

Penrod who was silent for the time gave a shrud."I don't know.Let's wait till that time comes, and find out."

"But we are utterly at a loss.Scientists say the disaster ornsed all avidence. We are utterly dubfounded.What could we do?Allow it to go into history as a strange volcanic upheaval or that the moon fell on the country?"

"Might as well have it the latter"advised George.

"I don't want to write anything on it at all"said Jean wearily."We'll all be dead some day, so what does it matter who discovers the cause of the disaster or if not, what it reallly was.I don't think we'll ever know."

"When I think about it Jean"Jack said after a while, rolling over on his back" hen I heard the word flood it goes to my head like fire,and as it really came I think the enemy done some most unimaginable thing- something you know, that now for it or us it seems worth laying in muck and water for.But I can't even imagine anything.All I do know is to that this business about "professional floods, and great explosion disasters and its results so far makes me sick and tired of everything and so on, it makes me sick to see so much muddy water all the time it is disgusting, I don't see anything but muddy water, floating wreckage,forest fires, darkened skies, sunless days, feellgreat heat got no comfort eat nothing nothing but beans or starve---I don't see anythin g at all pleasant about this war, not at all Jean.When I first heard of the disaster, and then I was far away in Calverine on a furlough everything seemed to me hopeless and confused.Everybody who read the awful news felt it too after they realized it was a fact.I'm afraid for the future of the country even if we win or not.Anyhow for the many months to come it will go very hard with us all, children, and ev rybody of the whole nation .Ever ybody at home or in towns that survived the disasters were so worried about it that they all left every lowland where floods might be about to be feared so that many towns and villiages are deserted.And we all of us have experiences over two years of bombs shells, and all other exciting horrors of battle, seen great massacres of children, and even a man won't peal that off as easy as a sock. Believe me we are in for hard times and I don't mean maybe.Many agreed that this war by Glandelinia is fought against everyone, not only against us here, not only against our christian armies, but against every body of our Abbiannian States, it rages everywhere, every one who is of our age outside the armies are in graver peril than those in the front line trenches to say more and to us I suppose less, though great enough.It seems to be the comson fate of our generation.Wickedness tries to uproot righteo rightenoss and destroy it from the face of the earth..The war on the side of Glandelinia use has literally ruined us all for everything Emperor Vivian was right in his state ment.We are not children any longer.We are not humans any longer.We ar are Purgatorians, who resist as Hell wishes to take our place of penance by storm.We are fleeing.We fly even from ourselves it seems.Even from our lives. We a were eight and ten and so on and had begun to love life and God and His Saints, and the world was ours, and to defend our rights, we have to shout it to pieces.Even the first bomb, the first explosion of war, bursts in our hearts. We are cut off from Heaven, and hell as to say, and are in Purgatory, cut off from aid even ofour friends, from a triving, from r progress.We believe in such good things no longer, we believe in the worst of wars.Glandelin ia is the " Cain, and we are the W"Adam."

Gertrude Angelines tent at this same time showed signs of life.The excite ment of the night and its horrors had seemed or did stir everythingup.Angeline Jennings was having the captured glandelin ian prisoner (not the wounded one) brought before Gertrude Angeline to be questioned. is boots gleamed in the distant fire glare.As he was brought in Gertrude, got up.

To see what he would answer she demanded of him;;;;;;

"Where's the city of Abbiesnn?"

She saw him turnwhite at this question but he insisted he knew nothing about it, thought Abbiesnn was a girl and was her sister.

"I'll sister you"she said wrathfully ."You turned whi e white when I asked you that question.you know very well.You won't say that's the fact of th the matter.Out with it.What do you know about Abbiesnn?"no George Bring Miss Marie Stanck in here quick."

The prisoner looked round enquiringly for some means to duck and escape but outside six stalwart Abyssinkilian soldiers barred the entrance.He felt embrassed to be a prisoner among "mere children" and he tried another way to evade the question but with no success.

The boy came back a moment later.

"Miss Marie Stake will be here in ten minutes Gertrude"he said.

Then having something to do before retiring it being now ten oclock, he steered off.

"I have a feeling that next time we go up investigating disasters I'll be letting a stone fall on some glandelinian officers head."Hinted Francis who was in the same tent looking at the prisoner.

"We'll have quite a lot of jokes out of him"laughed another .

"That's our sole ambition, to knock the conceit out of these haughty Glandelinians who like to kill children because they are so"scared" to die." Said Angeline nichee.

The prisoner was going to sit down.

"Stand there tillyou're ordered to sit down." said Gertrude."In the presence of ladies, mestand didn't you know that.".

The prisoner looked round and saw by a table three girl scout officers sitting and playing cards..Less than ten minutes afterward Marie Stake appeared and Gertrude told her what she wanted her for.Mary turned to the prisoner.

"Where's Abbiesnn?"

The prisoner shrugged his shoulders.

"Then you'd better find Abbiesnn"said one of the girls who was playing cards."she's a flood bound victim and we feel sure one of your kind is responsible.Haven'y you been out there to look for her."

"Who is she?" asked the prisoner.

"Who is she. Nothing now.she's nothing but water.Have you ever been out here before or were you always in Mylet zes army."

"That's none of your business kid."retorted the prisoner to the girl.

But Mary said;

"We believe you know something About the mysteries of Abbiesnn.I expect an answer."

"I cannot tell you anything."

"Very good.See over yonder where all that smoke is and that glare. Those are your man made forest fires.Some of us tried to go over there several weeks ago.wive dead and eighteen wounded.To you glandelinians it seems lots of fun.Next time when we go scouting t you go with us.We have been waiting a long time to capture some one like you. Now you may sit down.I'm going to question you some more.."

He sat down but unknown to any one in the tent the chairs legs were weak and he "SAT DOWN",and two girls disappeared from the tent like a comet, and out side the[illegible]same up for trail before before retiring time.The ones who captured him appeared as witness to his arrest and explained the reason of the capture.The story of Abbiesnns destruction made an impression on all, but the prisoner tried to evade the questions entirely, but in the end had to confess, that he knew not ing about Munleys affairs, that he was a soldier in Mylet zes army.

"Why didn't you report the matter then?" asked Gertrude.

The prisoner was silen t the prisoner seemed to know himself how much use it is reporting such things when he is a prisoner.It is of no avail to make any complains when you're a prisoner as you would not be listened to. Mary understood it all right, and lectured the prisoner severely making it plain to him that every one t ough they cannot yet prou pro e prove it suspects Glandelinia of the crime.The prisoner was then led back to his quarters.

When this was finished;

Jack said to his friend James;

"Before taps sounds what do you say to some roast goose?We can try it ashore it is nog all quiet."

"I sure would agreeee."James said.

They got permission and went ashore.Jack in reality wanted to test James some more.First to see their bearings they climbed up a tree .Jack marked the spot exactly close to the enemys lines.It was a big shed belonging to a Glandelinian regimental headquarters.James agreed to get the goose himself and recieved the instructions from Jack.The outhouse he found was behind the wall and the door shut with just a peg. Jack of course hoisted him up, James resting his foot in his hands, and finally climbed over the wall.Jack with drawn pistols kept watch below..James waited a few moments to accustom his eyes to the in darkness and to be sure no Glandelin ians would see him. Finally he recognized the shed, and he softly stealed across, lifted the peg pulled it ouid, and opened the door.After cautiously looking inside Jack observed something like couple of white patches.They were two geese.He knew that was bad for if he only grabbed one the other would set up a row and all the squads of the enemy would be around him.

"Well I'll grab both of them"he said"If I'm quick enough it can be done."

James after cautiously looking roundto see if there were any sentries made a jump.He caught hold of one, and the next instant the seconds, then like a boy who had gone mad he banged their heads againstthe wall to stun them, but he didj didn't do it hard enough or didn't have strength enough.The beasts cackled in a concert and struck out with their feet and wings, James fighting desperately too, but Heavens what a kick a goose sure has.They struggled fiercely and he staggered arout trying to find the entrance.In the dark these white patches to him seemed terrifying, they would arouse the Glandelinians who would come to investigate.And it seemed to him as if his own arms had grown wings and he was already afa afraid of going up into the sky, as though he held a dozen captive baloons in his fists.

Then the row surely began for fair, for one of the geesesucceaded in getting his breath and went off like an alarm clock, and before James could do anything to silence it, something black came in from the outside, the boy felt a resound ing blow, and fell outstretched on the floor, and then heard some awful growls which he realized came directly from some kind of dog.He cautiously stole a glance to the side from which he had been knocked down, and whatever it was made a snap at the boys throat.James therefore laid very still and tucked his chin into his color.He realized it was a dog alright, a great dane.A after what seemed to be a fulleternity the animal withdrew his head, and sat down beside the lad.James found too that if he made even the slightest movement the dog growled and boxed him with his paw.James had to cinsider, and realized though he hated to do it as he loved dogs, that the only thing to do was to get hold of his small almost noiseless revolver and that too before any one of any of the Glandelinians arived.Therefore inch by inch James moved his hand tward it yet he had the feeling that it lasted an eternity for with the slightest movement there followed the awful growl and the boxing.Therefore James laid still with the purpose to try again.When at last he had the revolver in his hand the boys hand started to tremble.He pressed it against the ground, and then thought to himself"I must jerk u the revolver up fire before he has a chan ce to grab, and then jump up.Therefore the boy slowly took a deep breath, and finally became much calmer.Then he held his breath, whipped up the revolver, there was the explosion of the cartridge, the dog leaped howling to one side, and the boy made quickly for the door of the shed, and fell head over heels over one of the geeze geese.At full speed he seized it again, and with a swing tossed it over the wall and clambered up but no sooner was the lad on top when the dog was up again as lively as ever,and sprang sprang at the boy who fired at it again this time mortally wounding the animal.Then quickly as there was a hub bub of voices the lad let himself drop.Ten paces away stood Jack with the goose under his arm.As soon as Jack met him both ran just as a number of Gla glandelinians shouting appeared coming over the wall.

In the darkness and with the help of the darkness they managed to reach the boat unseen and got across to the raft.At last they could breathe easier.The goose indeed was dead, Jack so to that in a moment. Both he and James intended to roast it without telling anybody.James fetched a stove and some wood from one of the raft tents and placed it on the center.He formed a sort of hearth an iron plate set on some bricks, and both kindled the fire.Then Jack plucked and and cleaned the goose.They put the feathers carefully to one side and Jack said in a whisper"I'd like to make two feather cushions out of them with the inscription;"Sleep soft and sound under shell fire."The sound of distant guns from some distant region penetrated across the waters.The glow of the fire lit up their little faces, and shadowy forms seem to dance on the raft.Sometimes there was close by on shore a heavy crahs, and everything on board the raft shivered.Once they heard a stifled cry and they believed some one must have been hit on shore . Shells droned the strange whir, whir of machine guns broke out somewhere, but no light that could be observed shown from the raft as their cooking fire was covered. Jack and James were sitting opposite of each other boy boyscouts in shapp shabby uniforms cooking a cooose at nine o clock at night.Both boys now did not talk much but they seemed to have a more complete communion with one another than lovers had.They were two boys, two minute sparks of life, one a Abyssinkiliaj Abyssinkilian lad, and the other German, outside was the night, and was far beyond was the circle of death in many horrible ways.Every one on the raft were absou absolutely on the edge of it in danger always, the grease dropped from their hands and in their hearts the two boys were close to ojo one another, and the hour waw not yet late.what did Jack know of James or James of Jack.formerly they should not have had a single thought in common now they sat with a goose between them and feel felt united and war were so intimate that they did not even need speak.

It unfortunately ta took a long time for them to roast the goose even when it is young and fat.So they took turns.One basted it while the other laid down and got some sleep while a grand smell gradually filled the air from the roast ing goee goose.The noisew further away always would increase in volume, pass into Jacks dream and yet linger into his memory.sometimes in a half sleep it would watch James dip and raise the ladle. He felt he could love this nice German lad, hisshoulders, his angular stoop stooping figure --and at the same time he saw behind him the smoke and flame fillled distant woods, star shells, and often heard a clear voice that uttered words that brought Jack peace, to him a boyscout in big boots, belt and knapsack taking anything that comes his way under the high heaven, quickly forgetting and seldom sorrowful for ever pressing on under the wide night sky.A little boy soldier, and a clear voice and if many one were to caress him he would hardly then understand this boyscout with the big boots, and shut heart, who marches and works and has forgotten all else but the horrors of the extraordinary war.Far away in a distant land he knew there were countries with flowers and he was lying so still that he felt he would like to weep.There were sights too he knew at home that he has not forgotten could not forget, because he neverpossessed them now perplexing, yet now lost to him.Are not his ten summers there.Jack felt that his face was wet, and for a moment wondered where he was.James stood before him, his gigantic stooping shadow falling upon him like home.He spoke gently, smiled, and went back to the fire.Then he said;

"Let's eat.It is done."

"Yes James."

Jack stirred himself.In the middle of the tent shone the brown goose.Both took their collaspsible forks and their knives and each began their feast.With it they had army bread dr dipped in gravy and they ate slowly and with gusto.

"How does it taste James."

"Good indeed.and yours"?

"Good James.We both make excellent cooks."

They felt like brothers and pressed on one another the choicest pieces.

"How would it be if we took a bit to Gertrude n and Angeline Richee."?

"Best of all"said James."They'll be surprised.That if if they had not gone to bed yet."

They carved off portions and wrapped it up carefully in newspapers. The rest they thought of taking over to Jean and some others who might be found awake that is dispose of it all."

So off they went to the respective tents and found they were awake. For a moment learning how the boys got the gooose Gertrude and Angeline Richee took the boys for magicians.Then indeed they did get busy with their teeth.Gertrude held a wing in her mouth with both hands l ike a mouth organ and ate away. It was a long time since she had ever tasted a goooose.She drank the gravy from the pot and smacked her lips.

"I'll return you this favor some time...."""said Gertrude.

The two boys ten went back out of the hut for their own tents.Again there was the lofty stars star shells.But the boys went off to sleep.

Morning dawned dark and sultry.every one wasup uns unusually early because of the fact that it was too hot to sleep any longer. Then the Telegraph in Gertrudes tent started its sound.

"There's rumors that to morrow and to day the enemy will continue to resist Vivienia"she said.New "New christian forces the telegraph says has gone up to the front two days earlier than us al .I believe the war is growing more violent."

Ahead of them even on the waters everythin g was simmering.During that night, those who had been on night duty tried to get their bearings.It was now fairly quiet this morning, and even those on board the raft could hear the transports behind the very enemys lines rolling ceaselessly.

"They are not going back or retreating further but bring up troops"said Gertrude listening to the sound"troops, munitions and shellls." I hope general Vivianis's artillery has been strengthened, but we are too far from the battle and cannot be able to detect that.The prisoner who is wounded said that general vivianis is well supplied, that he has at least four more batteries of many twenty fives to the north of Richee's farm and behind the popolar forests the eat artillery men have also put in many trench morters and besides these they have brought up a large number of these little beasts with such instantaneous s fusss.so we do not need to fear of general vivienia losing. But we ourselves must keep out of range.We had enough of it last night."

However b because of the sights of so much desolation every one on board the raft were in very low spirits.After the raft also started off a little the very christian shells began to fall into the water.The shore itself was like a large cage in which all on board the raft itself must wait fearfully whatever may happen.

No doubt Gertrude believed that the Glandelinians were in a very perilous position literally lying under a perfect network of falling and exploding shells and were living in suspense of uncertainity.Even over the very raft too close to the shore yet, chance hovered.If a good and dangerous shot came those on the raft could duck,that is all, they knew neither could they determine where it would fall, and if a high explosive ever blew up on the raft, they would all be going "swimming".

It was this case of taking such chances that made every one of the girlscouts so indifferent..Gertrude remembered an experience she herself had during one of the actions at the battle of Headrick Junction or Cedernine.During the beginning of the battle she had been sitting in a shed playing a sort of card game with one of the Vvian girls, and after a while she hearing the noise of battle growing louder had finally got up and went to the rear tovisit son of her girlscout friends in a house.On her return nothing more was to be seen of the shed it had been blown to pieces by a direct hit, and the occupants had gone just before it was struck.She went back to the country house and arived just in time to have soldiers com and led lend a hand digging those who were in the wreckage free.In the interval the house had been buried by the wreckage thrown over it by an exploding gan g gang shell. This always showed that this was just a matter of chance that she o and her other friends were still alive as she or they may have easily been blown to bits.At vivian wickey sheknew that any one may be in a bomb proof beiseging dugout and may be smashed to atoms and yet in the open may survive fourty eight hours bombardment without recieving even a scratch.Yet all the girl and boy scouts knows that no where does a soldier outlive outlive a thousand or more chances.But every [illegible] soldier, or girl or boy scout or a spy and son believes in God's protection, and therefore trusts to luck.

Though the girlscouts knew not why even on the raft they soon were realizing that they must look out for the safty of their bread.Rats had secured a fothold on the raft lately and in great numbers.The rats too were particularly repulsive, they were fat,---the gi kind the girls called corpse rats, rats that make you think of living ghosts.They had shocking evil and naked eyes and it was even to the very boys very nauseating to see their long nude tails.Indeed the rodents seemed mighty hungry, for it was evident that almost every one h found his provisions gotten into or his or her bread knawed.Gertrude had wrapped hers in her woo water r waterproof sheet and put it under her pillow but she could not sleep because recently at night they literally ran over her face to get at it, and though she chased them with a spade in her hand they were quicker than she(Girls in Abbiesannia are not scared of rats and mice).Angelin e Richee meant to outwit them,she fastened a thin wire to the roof of her tent and suspended her bread,, and cheese from it.During one night she switched on her pocket torch and saw the wire violently swinging to and fro, and on the bread was riding a fat rat.Her pistol spat, and she took the rat out by the tale asking Jack;

"what a rat for breakfast.!"

"Maybe if necessity"was his only answer.

At last they had succeeded inputting a stop to most of the rodents.They could not afford to throw bread and provisions away tovrats because already sometimes they had practically nothing to eat at times, so they carefully had cut off the bits of bread that the animals had knawed.The slices that they cut off were heaped together in the middle of the tent floor.Each girl or boy then took out a spade or any handy flat weapon that was heavy heavy and laid down prepared to strike.Either it was Gertrude, Angeline Richee or Jane who held their pocket lamps ready.After a few minutes they had heard the first shuffling and tugging.The noise grew ,then came the sound of manyl ittle little feet.Then the torches were swt switched on, and every little girl or boy struck at the heaps,which though they scatter with a rush, many fail tovescape and the result is so good that the girls and boys finally toss scores of dead rats across the raft into the water, and then again would lie in wait.Very often they had been forced to repeat the process, and at last the little beasts seemed to get wise to it r or perhaps they had scented the blood, and therefore they had returned but sl seldom. This morning for breakfast they all recieved an issue of Cheese and crackers.Each one recieved a quarter of a cheese.They ate it of course with crackers and coffee but were not greatly comforted..

Even since they began to travel on the raft they had been always making war on the rats. nd from their brushes with the enemy, especially the threeee big ones, their own ammunition and hand grenades had become more plentiful.They had even captured from the Glandelinians all kinds of bayonets and on overhauling them found many that had a saw on the blunt edge.If the Angelinians ever captured a glandelinian soldier with no one of those they would kill him outright, not give him any quarter. one of the glandelinians had been found whose noses were cut off, and their eyes poked out with their own saw bayonets, and their noses were stuffed with sand and saw dust cemented so that they smothered.However Gertrude knew that the enemy had realized that in many cases the bayoet had practically lost its importance as they could not cope successfully with the christian bayonets so the Glandelinians in charging or defending their works had fought with grenades, and spades and pick axes only. The sharpened spade was too the glandelinians indeed a more handy weapon many sided too and not only could it be used for jabbing an Angelinian soldier under the chin but it was much better for striking with because of its great weight, and if any one hit between the neck and the shoulder it would easily cleave as far down as the chest.Often the bayonet would be jammed on the thrust and then the glandelinian soldier had to kick hard on the other fellows belly to pull it out again, and in the interval he would get one from some one else himself.And what's more the blade often gets broken off with an Angelinian bayonet it is better.The Angelinian kind of make never broke yet.

They paddled the raft off for about a mile off land.Dawn approached without anything happening on the shore, only the ever lasti everlasting nerve racking roll behind the enemys and the christian lines, trains of wagons, thunders of cannon, roars of other clamors of distant battle but too what were they concentrating.With her glasses Gertrude could see the enemy artillery firing on christian surges of men continually, but still the attack does not cease.All on board the raft had tired faces, and some tried to avoid each others eyes.

"It will be like the Cedernine."said Gertrudesgloomily."There we were our selves shelled steadily for seben days and nights before the battle broke loose with the infantry and raged that dreadful horror all day."

Gertrude seemed to have lost all her fun since they had been on the raft so long, which seemed had, because Gertrude was known as a Prophet of War or Prophetess rather and seemed to be able to smell what was coming..Day after day had passed. At night Jack had often too squatted in the listeningpost on the raft.At night above him he had seen the rockets, and the parachut lights shoot up and float down again .Often he was cautious and tense and his heart would thump.He eyes had turned again and again to the luminious dial on his watch, and the hands seemed not to budge.Sleep hung heavily on his eyelids, and he worked his toes in his boots in order to keep awake.Nothing had happened however.He remembered one day when he was within general Vivians lines that the sky all day had been hung with observation balloons.Once he head had heard a rumor that the enemy was going to let go some other new kind of disaster but that interested them less then what they heard of the disasters already going on.

Tward eight oclock it seemed as if the earth boomed and the waters of the flood were lashed into ripplingwaves.Heavy fire was seen falling on the enemys positions on shore far to the south.For fear shells would fall on the raft, the more afrighted of the boyscouts crouched into corners, and Gertrude by looking through her glasses could dintinguish shells of every kind.Then the raft seemed to heave, the day roared, and the smoke cloud ashore flashed. Gertrude and Angeline looked at each other in the momentary flashes of light and with pale faces, and pressed lips shook their headsEvery one on board of the raft were aware of the many heavy shells that were tearing down the Glandelinian parapets far off on the south, knew that by the sound great explosions were he rooting up all kinds of embankments and demolishing the Glandelinian batteries within range.When a shell landed in the ba water they noted how the hollow furious blast was something like a blow from the paw of a raging beast of prey and a great eruption of water rose in the air, and sprayed over the raft like a deluge of rain.So terrible was the noise that already a few of the younger boyscouts were green ad vomiting, and indeed they were too inexperienced, and probably had never been close to such terrific shelling before. The raft was still being paddled further out of range from shore and slowly the grey lights tricl trickled over the waters and the landscapes, and the flashes of the hundreds of shells per minute became paler.,orning was coming on.Far away theynow heard the explosion of two mil mines mingled loudly with the gunfire.This usually was always the most dreadful and dementing convulsion of all n and looked and sounded like aagigan ic volcano blowing to pieces/

"I'd hate to be where those mines went off."said Jack to Jean.

"I don't thinkI'd like to be there either "she said."Because the whole region where they go becomes one grave no matter how many soldiers may have been there."

The raft reliefs now went out, day guards, and the night ones staggered in, covered with mud water and sand, and they were trembling.One of the a young nine year old boy laid down in silene in his tent and sate what he could, twice he had been flung on his face by the concussion of explosions on shore without getting any more than slight shell shock.The younger boys in the same tent were eyeing him closely.

"We have to watch them"said Gertrude."Those things are catching."

"Catching,, what do you mean catchin g!" asked Angeline Richre.

"I can't explain it, but look some of them are lookin g mighty nervious. It is good that it is growing daylight, perhaps we'll get out of range.We are unconsciously to the christians under fire of their own guns.The shells that might hit are us are at random you know."

The artillery fire did not dimish, it was now falling closer in the water too.Gertrude took a look on shore with her powerful field glasses and disv discovered that as far as one could see the landscapes seemed to spout huge eruptions and foundatins of smoke iron, and mud.

"The Christian artillery men are raking a wide belt of the enemys position."she said.I do not see any signs of a christian attack coming yet against the enemy but the bombardment continues. If we don't get away from shore yet we may be hit yet and sunk."

Slowly every one else includin g many of the men became absolutely mute. Hardly no one would speak, even in a whisper.They did not seem able to make each other understand the situation i either.Gertrude l continued to look through her glasses.

"The vGlandelinian sailents are almost gone.Look through these Glasses Jane, the fire is workin g wonders.At many places the enemys highest breastworks are only eighteen inches high, they are broken by many holes and mountains of earth.My heavens see that explosion."Like a big eruption.Look a big shell lands sw sq uare in front of a Glandelinian generals headquarters. The builidn g is blown to pieces."

At once overhead it grew momentary darker.An eruption of water roared upward close to the raft, and every one outside ran to get out of the way of the falling spray but were drenched nevertheless.The raft seemed to heave from the shock, and a wave made by the explosion almost swamped it.The men who were paddling were working harder and they were calmer because they had something to do.

Gertrude came out again and once more applied her glasses shor eward.

"Two sailents of the enemy are gone,and lots of men are scurring for shelter she "she said.

She looked round and saw that some of the more timid boys calmed themselves at the sight of her.She declared that at evening when the shelling was over she would attempt to land and secure some more food.This sounded reassuring.No one had thought of it except Gertrude.Now the very outside world seemed to draw a little nearer, if more w food could be brought in on the raft then it would not be reallly so bad.The night before attempts to get food miscarried.Three parties had gone out,cand it had turned back.Finally even Penrod had tried, and even he had reappeared withoutaccomplishing anythi enb anything.

"No one can get through that territory."He said."Not even a fly is small enough to get through such a region, of a barrage of shells, forest fires, and other perils.We would have to be spirits to do that."""

That morning all had pulled in their belts tighter, and chewed every mouthful threece times as long.Still it was evident the flooood did not mean to last out, many or all were already dreadfullly hungry.Jack had madd good made good by giving others axshare of the goose he had captured in his raid and fortunately he and they were not so hungry.James too was all right. Mildred took out a scrap of bread, ea ate the white and put the crust back into her knapsack wu with thepurposato nibble it from time to time.

A day like this was unbearable.Even the night it self had been unbearable from noise, heat, and smoke andthe strange noises on shore.No one had been able to sleep, but to stare ahead ot of themselves and doze.Jack had regretted that he had not been able to retain the other goo se.They were becoming short of water too but not seriously yet... .Tward morning while it was still still dark there came some great excitement, for through the entrance of the mess hall rushed in a swarm of fleeing rats that tried to storm the very walls of the big tent.At once torches lighted up the confusion, every one one yelled, and cursed, ad slaughtered and the madness and despair of many hours unloaded itself in this outburst.Faces were distorted, arms struck

out in all directions, the beasts screamed and squaled, and scrambled furiously in all directions to escape in vain only to be killed by scores, and boys and girls stopped in time just to prevent attacking each other by mistake.The onslaught had however exhausted them.They laid down to wait again. The raft was usually so dangerous ly exposed that indeed it seemed to be a great marvel that it had no losses of life so far, or that it was not hit and sunk.One man came in by a boat, and he had a loaf of bread with him, but only that and nothing else. Three Abyssinkilian soldiers only had the luck unknown to the others to get through during the night and bring some provisions.One of them said the mornings bombardment from the many christian batteries extended without abatement as far as the artillery lines stretched.

"It's a mystery where general Vivionia got all the shells, and other muntions when he is donw down here so far"said Gertrude

Those on board the raft waited a and waited.In a few minutes what was actually expected happened, and that was that one of the boys had a fit, especially the coward Jack saunders who had been a prisoner on board the raft all this time.The sentry had been watching him for a long time, and had seen the boy grind his teeth and was making motions as if he was opening and shutting his fists.He had hunted and protrudin g eyes, and the sentry indeed knew them too well.During the last few hours of night, and also through the earliest part of the morning the boy had had merely the outward appearance of calm as if he had collasped like a rotten trees.Now he stood up, crept stealthily across the floor of the tent, hesitated a moment, and then glided tward the exit of the tent.The sentry inc intercepted him and said;;;

"And where do you think you are go ing!"

"I'll be back in a few minutes"he answered, and tried to push back his guard to get out.

"No you won't.Just remain in the tent, the shelling will stop soon or we'll soon get out of range."

He listened for a moment and then for another moment his eyes became clear. Then again he had the glowering eyes of a mad dog, he was silent, and he tried to shove the guard aside.

"One moment lad"said the sentry(who was a soldier) "You are not allowed to leave the tent."

Gertrude however no i noticed, and she jumped in, and held him. Then he began to rave,"Leave me alone, let me go out, I will go out."

He wouldn't listen to anything, and struck out landing on Gertrudes mouth with the pal of his hand, his mouth was wet, and he started to pour out words half chocked meaningless words.

"It is a case of claustraphobia"said Gertrude"he feels as though he is suffocating here and wants to get out at any price.If we let him go he would run about everywhere and without regard to cover.He is not the firstI have seen this happens to cowards too close to a battle."

Though he raved, and his eyes rollled, it nevertheless could not be helped and Gertrude and two other boys were fored to give him a hiding to bring the cowardly boy to his senses.They did it quickly and mercilessly, and at last he sat down quietly.Some of the other younger boys had turned quite pale.The distant uproar was too much for them evidentlyand indeed it was enough to turn an old soldiers hair grey.And besides the sticky close smoky atmosphere worked more than ever on their nerves, an and as the raft was gliding away still further they all sat as if in their graves wai t waiting only to be closed in.Suddenly something howled and flashed most terrifically, and a shell hit one of the sheds on the raft, a direct hit too but it passed off into the water before exploding which was fortunate.The shed however withstood the shock but it rang metallically the wallls reellled everything inside flew everywhere, ulphur fumes poured over the raft.If the shell had exploded on the raft not one on the raft would have been alive.But the effect of the crash of the explosion in the water was bad enough.Jack Saunders started to rave again, and two others followed suit, one u jumping up and rushing ou , and the boys had trouble with the other two.Gertrude started after the one who had escaped and wondered whether to shoot him in the leg, then the shrieks came again, Gertrude flung herself down and when she stood up a wall of rolling smoke obscured the shore within her front.She scrambled back.

Jack Saunders seemed actually to have gone insane.He butted his head against the wall of the tent like a goat.He therefore was bound hand and foot but in such a way that in case the raft happens to get sunk he can be released at once.Gertrude suggested a game of checkers for it is easier when a person

has something to do.But it however was of no use for the listened for every 53
explosion that came close, miscounting the moves, and failing to follow suit, and
so they had to give it up.They sat as though in a hissing boiler that was being
belaboured from withouout on all sides.They felt deadened by the strain, a
deadly tension that scrapes along ones spine like a gapped knife.Their legs
refused to move, their hands trembled, their bodies seemed as if of thin skin
stretched painfully over repressed madness, over an almost irresistible bursting
uproar.They dared not look at one another any longer for fear of some most
incalculable thing.So the it shut their teath and thought---it will end----it
will end---it must end, perhaps we will come through, the raft won't be
injured and---and- --guddenly the nearer explosions ceased.The shelling
of course continued but it had lifted and fell somewhere else, the raft was
free..For fear of Glandelinians in retreating would come tward the raft, those
on board therefore seized their hand grenades and came outside to watch.The
closer bombardment had ceased and the heavy nbarrage fell elsewhere.Gertrude
took her glasses to look, and she and other watched for if an attack came upon
the enemy she could see it easily enough.

"The attack is being made"she screamed with excitement."Look Angeline
through your glasses.I hope they carry the enemys works."

"Yes, and yet no one would believe that in that howling waste out there
there could still be human but there they are for I see countless thousands
of men appearing on the ou inner side of the enemys batteried trenches even
only in the space of a s mile, and fifty yards off a machine gun is already
in position and going off like a hose turned on by a motor.

"I don't see how the enemy can hold if they do resist"Said Mildred.
"The enemys positions and abatis iare all torn to pieces and offer no obstacle
whatever.See there comes the christian troops, to the storming.Listen I hear
the enemys smaller artillery opening fire, machine guns rattling and the
rifles going like millions of raindrops on a wooden roof. Look the charge is
working its way across."

They couldc see two glandelinian batteries firing as they could be loaded
other batteries on a retreat passed them, and a shell exploding near destroyed
six guns and all the crew.A girl A gun was hurled sixty yards, and its cassion
seventy, and the munitions either exploded or were scattered far and wide showing
the mightypower of the shell.The girls gasped as they watched the onslaught.

"Our troops as they are running cannot do much"said Jane."They have to
wait un ill they get within fourty yards.I feel they may not succeed."

"I can recognize the distorted faces"said Jean"they are Abyssinkilians.They
have already suffered heavily, I don't like that, the foe lines is all a wall
of smoke now and I'm afraid the christian troops won't reach the position.A
whole line has gone down before the enemys dreadful fire, but look, some of
the enemys artillery are too hot to continue or to fire maybe too they
are out of ammunition, they are pressing nearer.Hurrah.They'll win now.""

Gertrude saw with the help of her glasses one of the Glandelinian soldiers
rise, and aim to fire, when he gave a lurch his rifle went off into the air
and he fell across the works, his body collasping and his hands remaining
suspended a little upwards as though he was praying(the better he was).Then a
shell(shrapnell) exploded close to him and his body was hurled clean away
by the blast and only his hands with the stumps of his arms shot off by the
shrapnell now hung a little over the works.She watched the ensuing fury of
the christian charge as long as she could stand the horrid sights and saw the
christian troops within about fifty yards of the works.As she was watching this
she recieved a shock.She observed a dark pointed beard, and then two eyes that
were literally fastened on her from the nearest point of shore.Then she saw it
move, then observed a gray sleved arm, then the head rose up, a hand, a
movement came from both hands, and she saw a rifle pointed directly at her.
Before he could fire a shot she flung a grenade through the air, and he lay
still forever afterwards.She then looked at the same battle scene and observed
that the Glandelinians within sight were starting to retreat, those behind making
for the rear in quite a hubbub of confusion, the christians pushing on .she
at first was somewhat discouraged for she obserh observed a long line of
Glandelinian machine guns firing from a newposition a little higher up, and
saw the christian troops in the foremost line going down faster than she could
count by scores, and she felt sick.

"The Glandelinians are fighting with the fury of wild beasts, like lions
and tigers."she said."Look how the rear positions are wrapped in smoke and
flame.The christian troops are foolishly pushing on, when they should seek
other shelters to defend themselves against the danger of annihilation.Look how
they are falling into dead and wounded now.My God a whole wave is down.What is
the matter with the generals, crazy? It is not against men the christian soldiers
are attacking, it is death with hands and heartless fury mowing the christians
down and yet the officers keep pushing them on recklessly.. Gertrude for a

short time felt within her a mad anger.But nevertheless she saw that the
Glandelinians though resisting so wildly, and with such insane desperation
was retreating, she saw a great number crouch behind a knall and con tin ue
firing untill not a soldier in gray was left alive, she saw large surges
of men in gray retreat behind a stone wall and other objections of protection
and continue a terrific fire, before they were so reduced that they finally
hand to abandon thisposition and run before the ever advancing christians.The
awful noise of the battle now seemd to loterally impinge powerfully on the
legs and arms of everybody on board the raft, the air was bi viberated from
the din of firing, and yells, screams, and noises of frightful agony.she followed
with her glasses as she saw a score number of platoons of Glandelinians
continue to run on crouching however like frightened animals as they did so,
and she knew that the Glandelinians nevertheless were overwhelmed by this
christian tide that forced them to run.She knew that what made the christians
go on so relens relentlessly was that the fury in them multiplied their
strength with madness and ferocity, seeking and fighting for nothing but to
drive away or annihilate the gray uniformed defenders of foe them.

"The forward br astworks and other works of the Glandelinians have been
abandoned." said Angeline nichea.

"But they do not look like works and trenches now"said Gertrude."Look that
once great sailentposition over there, now blown to pieces, annihilated---they
are only broken bits of works near it that is all, so no wonder the enemy
could not withstand the attack."

"But oh the christian casulaties are increasing immeasursably"said Mildred.
"I did not believe the enemy would give such resistance.I'm afraid when they
recieve reinforcements and rally they'll drive in a counter charge and throw
our side back again."

The heat of the morning had not ceased however,,, the sweat almost
stung in Gertrudes eyes, and she took out her handkerchief to wipe it off.She
saw the Glandelinians at last reach a breastworks that was further in the rear,
and she saw reinforcements coming for the Glandelinians.It was manned most
fearfully, and it recieved the attacking christians fiercely, while the
Glandelinian guns opened up in full blast and so Gertrudes horror and disappoint
ment was finally cutting off and repulsing the christian attack.She saw the
frontal lines of the recently advancing christians stop advancing, because they
could advance no further without annihilation.

"I knew it.I knew it."Said Mildred disdainfully."The attacked is crushed
by the Glandelinian artillery."

Every one who had glasses watched.she that is Gertrude observed that the
Glandelinian artillery fire increased, and that new columns of the enemy broke
forward with their terrific devil yells.For a moment so quickly was the counter
charge there came a hand to hand fighting which none of the child scouts
could bear to look upon but those that could look saw that the christian troops
were being driven back again, and with dreadful slaughter.They saw the enemy
rush on like a storm, the glandelinians with leaps and springs, and while
at the same time forcibly passing through and amidst the retreating christians
reach the shattered works again with their christian foes, and both on retreat
and advance pass on beyond it.This was a frightful sight, a retreatvand
incomprehensible hand to hand fighting at the same time.She Gertrude saw
a man get his head knocked off by a rifle butt, and observed him run for
nearly a hundred feet or more while the blood was spouting from his neck
like a fountain.Then he fell.The glandelinians and retreating christians
reached the shelter of the main works at the same time and both sides try to
halt at once and plung again into the unspeakable horror and the slaughter
became most frightful.But the Glandelinians were able to sweep forward again
, powerfy powerfully, the Glandelinians too were maddened with fury, raging
most savagely, they were mortal enemis of the christians indeed, they showed
it by their methods of fighting, they were as Gertrude saw determined to kill
all in their way..Gertrude had never believed men could fight each other
so savagely, the glandelinians continued to push forward as if nothing
resisted them.All seemed now a gloomy world of Hades, of Hades automations,
and it seemed that the foe had even lost all feelings for even themselves.
They could not even control themselves when their haunted glance lighted on
the forms of purple coated men in front of them, and they attacked like thugs
and murce murderers.Gertrude saw a young Angelinian soldier forced to lag
behind from sheer exhaustion, he was overtaken by a Glandelinian soldier who
appeared to be a Scoodlier, but the Angelinian was seen to put up his hands,
but he held in one a revolver, and the Scoodlier not certain whether his foe
meant to either give himself up or shoot, struck the Angelinian and his sabre
cleaned through his head, but simultaneously from another Angelinian
he got a bayonet in the back, then almost at once the Angelinian fell wounded.

So fierce was the hand fighting now that men were cut down or bayonetted and sho faster than you couldcount by scores.An Angelinian officer sees a Glandelinian Hobbonite coming tward him, and tries to run farther, a bayonet jabbed him into the back, but again the glandelinian is killed by a musket but t striking him in the head from behind. He leaped into the air, his arms thrown wide, his mouth wide open, yelling and cursing, he staggered, but still in his back the bayonet quivered.A third man threw away his rifle, cowered down with his hands before his eyes.This man Gertrude observed was left behind with only a few other prisoners to help carry off wounded.Suddenly in the persuit she observed the enemy reach the christian line. position itself.Still the enemy were so close on the heels of the retreating christians that the foe reached it at the same time as they and poured over the works before the purple coats could even have an instants time to make a halt or rally.In this way the Glandelinians began to suffer fearful losses in turn. But the foe continued to press on.She observed a Glandelin ian captian smash with his sword handle to pulp a mans face of one of the gunners.Two soldiers bayonetted the others before they had time to even get out their hand grenades.The works were now inpossession of the foe and Gertrude could see that the whole section of the christian works was empty.So fast Gertrude observed was the retreat of the soldiers that the foremost of the Glandelinians lose touch with the christians entirely.But she began to observe there was some hope after all, and this too was only the beginning.The fight never ceased. Further off a continual roar showed the main christian batteries were breaking loose again.The Glandelinians were again under a hell of shell fire, that was shattering everything without excepting killing and tearing men to pieces by the scores of thousands per broadside.The enemy could not stay here a moment longer but was forced to retire to Gertrude satisfaction under cover of their own artillery and to their own position or be annihilated.

The Glandelinians observed by Gertrude got back in bad style however, and to make it more ex- exciting new christian forwards fores were preparing to charge again.Gertrude did not wantbto see any more.As shell again thundered their hesslish fury too close to the raft to suit her fancy she and the others went into their tents and the men at the paddle were ordered to row faster, while others were put to work hastily to take advantage of the east winds then prevailing to hoist the sails. On board the raft had been brought early in the morning by some of the men a goodly supply of corned beef which had been the chief reason of a flying raid on the pa t of these men, for the nourishment of these child scouts was threatening to be generally bad, for they have had a constant hunger from being in a region of such abject desolation.

One of the men in his raid that early morning had bagged five tins together. This showed that the Glandelinians were well looked after, and it seemed a luxury to every one of the boys and girls, and the soldiers even secrets with their hunger pangs, their turnip jams, and meat so scarce that they literallly would grab for it.Another man had scored a thin loaf of white bread, and stuck it in behind his belt like a spade.It was a good thing there fore every one had something decent to eat at last, for they all still had a use for all their strength, and therefore enough to eat, is just as good as a good strong defense, it can save their very lives, and that was the reason they just now felt so greedy for it.Even Jack when he had sent James tc capture two geese had secured two water bottles full of milk, and that morning had passed them round to every one, there having been enough.

As the raft went on ahead the morning advanced, and from the warmer waters of the flood rose thick steamy mists because of the heat and it looked as though the very air was full of ghostly secrets.The white vapour crept painfully up upwards before it ventured to steal away tward the shore, and long streaks of smok smoke adding to the scene stretched along the shore.It was very warm.Jack was on sentry duty, and as the raft bore away a little off shore he stared into the murk.His strength was almost exhausted from his al ost almost sleepless night and it was hard for him to be alone so much with his thoughts..They were not proper nor pleasant thoughts, at least they were memories which in his weakness turned homewards and strangely moved him. Great clouds of smoke from bursting high explosives shot high upwards like great volcanic eruptions---and thinking hard to himself Jack imagined he saw a picture, a pleasant beautiful summer evening, he again was in the Cloister of his old Parish Cathedral, and he fancied he again saw the tall fir trees that grew in the middle of the large cloister garden, where saintly persons ley burid.Around the walls too were the stone carvings of the well known Stations of the Cross.A great crowd is there hearing morning Mass.Yet a great quietness rules there the sun lies warm on the great heavy stones.At

the right hand corner the beautiful greenish blue Cathedral spires ascended into the pale blue skies of the evening n and between the glowing columns of the cloister was the cool darkness that only churches have and he stood there and wondered whether, when he was twenty he shall become a priest or a lay brother.The image is alarlingly near it touched him before it dissolved away in the flare of the next explosion shell.Suddenly Jack for the moment came to himself, he saw something peering at him and he lay hold of his rifle to see that it was in trim.The barrel is dry, then he goes back to his dream. Between the meadows behind his town there stood a line of old populars and fir, and oaks by a beautiful blue stream.They are all visible at a great distance and they grew on both banks.He had always had a great love for them, they had drew himand all his child friends vaguely thither, and he had remained with his sisters the whole day by them listening to their rustlings and the moaning of the winds through them.He also remembered when he sat beneath them on the bank of the stream and let his bare feet hang over into the bright cooling and swiftly moving waters.The pure fragrance of the water and the melody of the wind in the trees always held.his fancies.He had loved them dearly, and the image of those beautiful jofg joyful days still made his heart pause in its beating.Indeed it is always strange that all such memories that come have these natures, and these qualitins.They are always completdl complet ly calm that is always predominant in them, and if they are not really calm they soon become so.They were to him soundless like gohstly thoughts that seem to speak to him with looks and gestures, silently, without any word and it is usually the alarm of their silence that forced him to lay hold of his sleeve and his rifle lest he should abdon himself to the liberation and the allurment inwhich his body would dilate and gently pass away into the still forces thatt usually lay behind. these visions .These s en es scenes were always quiet in this way, because quietness is so god to them now. In the war zone of Calverinia there was no quatness, and the curse of the war reaches to far that they never pass beyond it.Even in the remote depots and the rest areas the droning, and the muffled noise of the shelling and the noise of battles was always on their ears.They were n ever so far off that it was no more to be heard.But these last few days is was already unbearable.

The stillness of beauty and of the better zones could be the reason why these memories of former times did not awaken desire so much as sorrow ---a strange inapprehensible melancholy.Once he had had such desires--but they did not return now.They seemed to be all past, they seemed to him to belong to another world that is gone far from him..But here out in the flood waters they were completely lost to him.They arose no more, he seemed to be dead now and in a strange horrid Purgatory, everything seems a horrid apparition a mysterious reflection drawing him to desire to get out but never succeeding in doing so.Everything seems strong, his desires are strong--but they are always un attainable, and he knew it..And even if these scenes of his younger boyhood days were given back to him he did not believe he would really know what to do or where to go.The tender secret influence that passed from them into him and other children could not rise again, n o never.Little girls and boys like these scouts surely long to be in them and to move in them, they longed to remember and to love them, and to be stirred by the sight of them.But now it would belike gazing at a photograph of a dead and almost long forgotten comrade, those are now his features, it is his face, and the days they spent together take on a mournful life in the me o memory, but the boy himself it surely is not no more.He felt sure he could never again take part in these same beings or to take part in the same scenes.It was not the failure to recognize their beauties, and their significance but the ruin, all around, water fire, and other devastations which cut him off from such jor h joys and made the whole world insp incomprehensible to him-- for then he had been forced to surrender himself to the horrid events,and was forced to be lost in them, and the least little thing was enough to cary him and his friends down the stream of Hades.Perhaps it was only the privilege of being a boyscout, but as yet he recognized no limits and saw no where an end to the great terrors of such a war.He usually had that thrill of expectation in the blood which united him with others, with the course of the past days.He longed to be home but was his home still surviving, ad if so could he l ive them.He felt he and everyone were flro forlorn like children without homes, without parents, and experienced like old men, that he and they were crude and as sorrowful and superficial ---he believed too he and everyone were like those lost, and lost forever.His hands grew too warm to suit his fancy, his flesh felt like creeping, no wonder distant forest fires made the morning too warm L again.

The mist was ill smelling the mysterious mist that seemed to trail the dead soldiers of battle before him, and sucked from their them from them their last creeping life.By night they will be pale and green, and their blood congealed and black.

Still the high explosive shells shot up their ernormous clouds of smoke and debris and the boy began to have a feeling of fear and some restlessness.Hi He felt as if he was trembling.He felt he nor any one else could not endure much longer without some sympathy and communion, and his thoughts now seemed disordered and seemed to have the naked picture of despairThen he heard somewhere the rattle of mess tins and the call for breakfast and immediately felt a very strong desire for warm and good food which he felt would do him good and comfort him.Therefore with great impatience and painfully he forced forced himself to wait, untill he was relieved.Then he went into the mess hall and took a canteen of beans which was cooked in fat, and tasted good.He sat and ate it slowly, remaining quiet nevertheless though the others seemed to be in a better mood, for the distant shelling had again died down and other sounds of battle could be heard.

The hours went by indeed the incredible hours followed one ano after another as a matter of course ..From the noises the girlsand boys knew that attacks ws were alternating withcounter attacks, and that slowly the dead were piling up in the bloody fields far off on shore. Gertrude wondered whether the opposing troops would be able to bring in most of the wounded that do not lie too far off.,and she knew the horrors of war, for many wounded have long to wait, andhow often in other battles she had been compelled to listen to them dying.she remembered one sad horror after the frightful carnage at Headwick Junction at Cedernine Creek.wor one of the wounded hundreds of soldiers had searched over threese days in vain.she felt sure the poor man may have been laying on his front because of his wound or wounds he had been unable to turn over.Otherwise she knew it was hard to understand why the soldiers could not find him for it is only when a man has his mouth close to the ground that it was impossible to guage the direction of his cries.she knew the man had been badly hit---one of those real nasty wounds, neither so severe, that they exhaust the body at once and the man dream dreams on in a half swoon, nor so light that the man would endure the pain in the hope of becoming well again. Violet had thought the man had either a broken hip, or a shot through the spine, for she had said his chest could not have been injured otherwise he would not have such strength to cry out.And if it were any other kind of wound it would be possible to see him moving. Finally his cries had grown continually hoarser, and also that the voice sounded so terribly desperate that it prevailed ever where everywhere.The first night over two hundred soldiers went out six times to look for him, and then when some of them thought they had located him, and crawled across even under shell fire the next time they heard the voice it seemed to come from somewhere else altogether.They therefore had searched in vain till dawn.Officers scrutinized the fields all day with glasses, but discovered nothing.On the second and third day the calls grew fainter and fainter, and that seemed because his lips and mouths have become dry.General Ston eman had promised to all soldiers who found him special leave with a week extra, and though that was apowerful inducement, they would have done all that was possible without that, for his cry was wasterrible and nerve raking. Even violet, and her sisters also took the chances and went out in the afternoon,and one of the boy scouts who accompanied them got his ear shot off in consequence.It was to no purpose, they had to come back without even finding him.It was easy too to understand his cries.At first he called for help only, the second night he must have had some delirum for he spoke of his wife and children, and Gertrude had often detected the name Elsie.On the morning of the third day he merely wept but by evening the voice dwindled to a croaking though it still persisted through the whole night.She had heard it so distn distinctly because the wind blew tward the lines.Then in the morning when it was believed he had already gone to his rest there came across to her one last gurgling rattle .The day was hot then too and the countless dead had lain unburied.The soldiers could not fetch them all in if they did what could be done with them.Many had been found with their abdomens swollen up like balcons.They hissed, belched, and made movements, and the gases in them made noises.When the wind blew it brought tward the lines the smell of blood, a deathly exhalation, which seemed to be a mixture of chloroform and putrefaction and filled all with nausea and retching.

Then the sky was blue, and without clouds, it was sultry, and the heat literally rose from the clouds.

Other times Gertrude remembered other incidents after the battle at Cedernine. When the night following the terrific struggle became quiet the hunt for the copper driving bands, and what was left of the silken parachutes of the Glandelinian star shells had begun..The driving bands of these things were said to be made of the best copper and therefore were quite veluable.some of the soldiers had collected so many that they had stooped under the weight of them in returning to the christian lines.The parachutes themselves however had been turned to more practicale use.According to the very sizes of the busts three some times four would make a blouse or a shirt.Gertrude had used parts of them as handkerchiefs, and the others she hae sent home , and indeed if those at home could have seen at what great risks these bits of rags had been obtained they indeed would have been horrified.

As the raft slowly went onward two big butterflies started playing on the rest of the fence.They appeared to be large ones with tricolored wings . Gertrude wondered;"what can they be looking for here!There is not a single plant now nor a flower for miles and miles, only water.she had observed too that the birds were just as carefree, as if they had long been accustomed themselves to the loud din of the war.Every morning even larks had been seen flying overhead and making their peculiar noise, and in the evening too.Even at this distance they could hear the rolling roar of the christian and enemy artillery .

In an argument with Angeline Richee over the nature of the war Gertrude said;

"I'm telling you the truth I have seen more horrors at Cedernine than any other battle.,landelinian batteries don't tr u yrouble us, but the enemy field guns and gathling guns, and "Hose Guns " the christian troops hate more than anything, they sweep men away like the plague.A couple of minutes after an ernoru ernormous christian column rushes to the charge, sha shrapnell and high explosives dropped on the column and put it out into nothing.At Headwick Junction general Kindernine lost three quarters of his men that way in one charge, and thirty of them color bearers.Two men were so smashed that a comrade remarked that anyone could have scraped them off the ground with a spoon and bury them in a small mess tin.I saw one dead Glandelinian soldier whose lower part of the body and his legs had been torn off.He was dead, his chest leaned against the side of a tree, his face was lemon yellow, and in his beard a cigar was stiilll burning..I saw much of that horrible tug of war, there was attack, counter attack,, charge repulse, hurling onslaughts like a giant storm, terrific artillery firing, dreadful explosions, and what dreadful things they signified.Emperor vivians army had lost a dreadful number of men but mostly-recruits.Reinforcements had been continually sent to the sections broken up by the glandelinian storm, and one of the new regiments were unfortunately composed of young fellows, who had hardly any training and who had be n sent in without hardly any military knowledge."

"What was their ignornace?" asked Angeline.

"Why they did not know what a hand grenade was, they had very little idea of cover and what was entirely more important of all, had no eye for it.At Ger Cedernine a fold in the ground had to be quite eighteen feet high before they could understand its need.Although general Nemo(s great army needed reinforcement, the recruits gave him more trouble than they were worth.Though brave even to recklessness they were helpless in that grim fighting horror at Headwick Junction, and though they went in to recover ground after the Hobbonites captured Headwick junction they fellbi in vast multitudes before the Glandelinian machine gun and artillery fire.I saw the buildings of Headwick Junction go as if they were blown from the crater of Mt Calverine before the explosions of gang gang shells. From that show it proves that the present method of fighting from work w to work demands know ledge and experience,with both ground and the enemys tatics, a man must have a feeling for the contours of theground an ear for the sound and the character of the shells, and must be able to decide beforehand where they will drop, g how they will burst, and how to shelter yourself from them.These new recruits hundreds of thousads of them knew nothin g of these things.They got killed in wholesale thousands so quickly simply because they could tell nothing of shrapnell from the high explosive gang gang shells, they were mowd down in whole waves because they were listening anxiously to the roar ofthe awful gangs, falling far in the rear,, and miss the light, piping whistle or scream of the low spreading shrapnell.They in counter charging flocked together like sheep instead of scattering.

I have seen even the wounded sh shot down by Glandelinian snipers.When I've been moving among the fallen looking for chances to aid them I have seen their pale turnip faces, their pitiful clenched hands.It is unusual the miserable reckless courage of these poor soldiers making the desperate charges against the Glandelinian devils and also attacking and withstanding attacks, and often I have seen glandelinians soterrified of these recruits that thry dared not even cry out loudly, while at the same time the christian wounded with battered chests and torn bellies, and arms and legs, only whimpered softly for their mothers, and cease as soon as one looks at them....

To me their sharp downy dead faces had the awful expressionlessness od many dead children.It brought a m lump into mythroat to see during an attack how they would rush to the enemys works, and run and fall.I have seen ten two twenty new recruits fall to one every old handA fierce surprise attack has carried away a lot of them during that awful battle.Even now I have seen that many new crecaru ts have not learned what to do.I found one trench f ll of them with blue heads and black lips.Some of them in a mine hole had been found chocked to death. In one part of a trench I found nearly two hundred soldiers dead from horrible shell wounds.I made a firm resolution not to go too near a battle line again, and yet I never had kept the resolution."

"I had an experiance once with a coward."said Angeline Riches.."It was at the horrid battle at Delight's Junction.General Stains troops had counter attacked and breatlessly mostl o the soldiers waiting for the word to charge were all lying beside one another.I dared to follow as far as it was safe to see how the charge would be, and although I was very excited I suddenly thought"where's francis Daniels.!" quickly I myself jum ped jumped back into the trench and find him lying in a corner with a small scratch on his hand pretending of course to be wounded.His face looked sullon.I could see he was in a panic, scared as a cat, and he was a foriegner too.But that does not excuse forigners, they had no right to enter our armies then, and it made me mad that so many other of the soldiers should be out facing the relentless enemy, and he remaining there.

"Get out and charge."I sip spitted at him.He did not si stir, but his lips quivered, and his whiskers twitched up and down.

"Out "I repeated drawing my pistols."But he only drew up his legs, crouched back against the wall, and showed his teeth to me like a cur.I seized him roughly by the arm and tried to pull him up, but he backed, ad landed a kick against my stomach that sent be falling backwards.That was too much for me I grabbed h m by the neck, placed my pistol byhis head and said;"You slumpy coward, will you get out and fight--you cowardly hound, you skunk, sneak ou of it w would you, when ar others are risking their lives.Get out or I'll shoot you here." However his eyes seemed to become glassy, and I knocked his head against the wallll"You cowardly yellow fox"I kicked him in the ribs for the kick I recieved a recond time"You cowardly dirty swine"One more chance and if you don't I'll shoot .I meant it ."

I then managed to push him tward the door of a hunt near the trench and he fell out head first.Another wave of our attack then just had come up. A general who I knew well was with them.He soon the coward and yelled "Forward, join in forward."And the word of command seemed to accomplish what my own efforts could not do.The origenar heard the order, looked round him as if awakened, and then followed on, I going a little in the rear to watch and saw him finally go over and ran a Glandelinian soldier with a bayonet.He then had even outstripped the general and waws far ahead.Our troops faced bombardment, a real barrage, curtain fire, fury of dreadful mines, enemy machine guns, hand grenades, rifles anything that held the horror of the world, and fell in dreadful numbers as fast as snowflankes on the ground, but that fool of a foriegner survived, and killed every glandelinian that dared to face him.It took excitement to make a coward brave. Our very faces were encrusted, nay our thoughts then seemed devastated if you cancall it such, we were even weary unto death, and when the attack did come many of our soldiers had to strike many of the men with their fists to wakon them and make them comewith us, our eyes were burned with powder smoke and hurt by the flare of terrific explosions, our hands were torn, our very knees were bleeding, and our eye brows were r aw.

How long has it been now Gertrude since this terrible war has begun?Weeks, months, years.?"

"This war began in Nineteen Twelve on New Years day or sometime thereabout" said Gertrude. "Anyhow we see time pass in the colourless faces of the millions od dying we had heard of and of many whom we see, we even cram food into us , we are forced to run, we throw even grenades ourselves, we give signals at any risk, we too have to kill our Glandelinian enemies when they aim to murder us, we lie about in mud, sand, on bogs, anywhere, many of our soldiers even are feeble and spent and therefore Angeline nothing supports us, but the knowldge that our country is devastated by flood fire and hades horrors that because of the disasters there are stillll feebler, still more spent, still more helplessones there, who with staring eyes, look upon us girl and boyscouts as spcially protected by God and His Blessed Mother, because so many of us escape from death so many times..I had to many times teach many of the boy ad girlscouts many different lessons for safty."I used to say"see that big round object?,.That is a gang gang shell coming. Keep down it will go clean over.But if it surely come this way run for it.You can run from a gang gan shell."We have sharpend their eyes and ears to the malicious hardly audible buzz of the smalller shells that are as we all know now are not so easily distinguished..That is you know the dangerous shrapnell.They must be able to surely pick them out from the general din by their insect hum---we have explained often to them that these are far more dangerous then the big ones that can be heard long time before they strike.We have showned them how to take cover from a shower of grape and canister, how to simulate a dead girl or boy when one is overrun in being persuit, how to tide our little handgrenades so that they explode half a second before hitting the ground, we have teached them to fling themselves into ravines, holes, ditches and holes of other kind as quick aslightning before the shells with instantaneous fuses, we have showned them how to clean a ditch, we have explained the difference between the very fuselength of the Glandelinian fire shellvbombs, and our own, we have put them wise to the sound of high explosive shells---showed them all the tricks that can save them from death.They have learned, but I can remember once when I, Violet, and her sisters got caught in an an ambush during the battle of Evangelinia Crania A boyscout was dragged away with a great wound in his back through which the lungs pulsed at every breath..I could only press his hand as he said"It's all up Gertrude with me" and he groaned and bite his arm because of the pain.After a battle I have seen many men with their skulls blown open, I have often seen soldiers run with their two feet cut off, and stagger on their very splintered stumps into the enemys captured works, I once saw a corporal crawl a mile and a half on his hands, dragging his smashed and dead disolated leg after him, I have seen another go to a dressing station, and over his clasped hands bulged his intestines,,I have seen men without mouths, without jaws, without chests, with heart and lungs exposed to view, one man was observed by me who had the held the artery of his arm to or in his teeth for three hours in order to not to bleed to death.The sun then goes down on many of these bloody hat l battlefields, night after night comes and goes, the shellls whine, like for many is at an end.I tell you Angeline war is not cracked up to be what they say it is.I was in a division of troop when it was relieved after the big battle of Drosabella Turner. It was I suppose summer when the division was relieved, division indeed, not even a company of it left, the tresces were still green it was then early summer, and the night was gray and wet.The troop halted, a confused number of men a remnant of many names.Ot On either side in the town sts stood many people, women and children included call ing out the numbers of the regiments, and the companies and so wor forth, looking to see if they can find their loved ones.Only once in a long while at such a call a little group had separated itself, a small handful of dirty pallid soldiers a dreadfully small handful, a dreadfully small remnat indeed..Soon some one was calling the number of our "Company" it was of course the Company commander, and he had got a wound too for his arm was in a sling and rod.I went over to him, and recognized Stalsin and some other officer, we stand together lean against each other, and looked at one another.And then we heard the name and number of our Company called again and stillll again.He called a long long time. "Once again"Second Company this way. And then more softly"No one else in this second company."

The soldiers had shaken their heads. He was silent, and then huskily he said"Is that all."?Yes "was the answer ad he gave the order"Number."

The evening was grey, when the division went it it was one hundred and fifty six thousand strong.Now we freezed with sorrow and dread, the voice fluttered out wearily"one two three, and four" and ceased at sixty one.And then there was a long silence before the voice asked;"Anyone else?" The voice then waited, and then said softly;"In squads" and then broke off and was only able to finish"Second Company of Abbieannia"with great difficulty" Second Company march easy."

We did in a very short thin line trudging off into the evening.Out of that division only sixty one men.. In the "

In the meantime a number of them that is girls and boys were off duty and were allowed to loaf around. at this time the deserter Jack Saunders was brought anew to be examined by Gertrude Angeline.He has had some sense knocked

into him since he had been held a prisoner so long, and wanted to recieve pardon and get on good terms with all the rest.Some were willing enough to forgive, because they had seen in other times how he had once brought in a boyscout when the lad had been i hit in the back.Besides he was always decent enough to treat many of those recently before the expedition at the canteen when they were even out of funds, or had not the price to pay.But the head officers of the scouts knew what the country does concerning cowardly persons especially those who desert those in peril, and therefore they were reserved and suspicious, and Jennie Turner who was back in the lines already had the slips of papers made out whd which she had prepared to show to Violet and her sisters as evidence against him.Knowing what kind of a girlscout she was Jack, knew what he could do so save himself if he could win her friendship back.But she good as she was, was really hard boiled about cowardly persons. She had him brought for questioning to see why he was trying to make others change their opinion even though habit was an explanation of why he did so so quickly.But she couldn't get over it that he had deserted Joan when suddehy under fire, he had acted the fool, and had quailed even when her troop had been sentout to go foraging through the countryside.She really could never forget these things.Of course he would not receive the severe penalty of a man desertor but so lo so long as he had deserted a girlscout his offense was too serious for even her to reflect on them at once.If she did that she would have decided on that long ago.If they also had too many dear deserters on board the raft the whole expdition would also have been destroyed.She had soon found out this much----A coward can be endured so long as simply a man or boy only ducks from his duty---but when he deserts another in peril that was still worse.

From their own ways of fighting Gertrude believed the Glandelinians were more savage than tigers or lions, and that they especially war on little children. There was much arguments on this, that such persecutions sometimes make cowards of children, than that such children could do nothing else, that it was a sheer necessity. It was said that children have a right to live at any price, even for self preservation, and that others have no right to burden themselves with feelings which though they might be ornamental enough in peace time, would be out of place here. Through the horrors of the war many friends Gertrude had known, were dead, one other of her boys was dying she kind of remarked that they would have a job with the body of one of Her soldiers at Judgement day piecing it together after a dired direct hit, another soldier had no legs any more, a captian was already dead, three boys were dead, and several girls were dead, and hundreds of soldiers gone since the expedition from general Vivienias army began tward Emperor viviens army, and even now there were two hundred and eighty six wounded men lying in the tents on the raft, and many in dreadful agony, especially the wounded Glandelinian soldier it indeed seemed a " damnable business",but it couldn't be helped -- a war is full of suffering horrors and so on.If it were possible for Gertrude to save them, then she would do so, she cared indeed much about the losses, she would rather have a shot at the foe even if she went down herself for she and her followers were good as soldiers though children , they in their wild excitement had no terror of death.But many h of her comrades were now dead she could not help them except pray for them and have Masses said for them and who knew what was in waiting for her and the survivors of her followers.. Others had tried to make themselves more comfortable and get sleep but the noise from the wounded kept a many awake.The terror of the horrible war sinks deep down when they turntheir backs upon it, but no one ever make grim course jests about it, though they all spoke of everything that kept them from going mad as long as they took it that way they could maintain their own resistance.But they never do forget . Gertrude once said to Penod;

"The world is finding out that it is all rot that they put in the war news about the good humour of the troops, how they are arranging dances almost before they are out of the front. The soldiers don't act like that at all because they are in a good humour, they are seemingly in a good humour because othw otherwise, what they have seen during the war, they should go to pieces.Ad too if it were not so our country could not hold out much longer, even though our humour becomes more bitter every month.And this I know, all these things that now, while we are farther into the war then ever, sink down in all of usliko a stone which after the war may awaken again, and then shall begin the disentanglement of life and death. The days, the weeks, and good years shall surely come back again for all of us who survive, and our dead comrades shall then in their spirits stand up again and march with us, our heads shall be clearer, we shall be have a purpose, and so we shall march our dead comrades beside us, the years of this us unusual war behind us--- against whom? against whom?"

The raft had continued on slowly but steadily.with wide eyes Jack, Joan and others stood on the front railing of the raft, watching the disgustful flood waters.None of them could hardly credit that such things like this could have reallily existed.Joan was in a light summer uniform, with a red pe ant leather belt about her hips, and her red uniform vest was quite muddy.Showas standing with one hand on the railing, ad with h the other she held her hat.She wore her uniform yellow stocking and tan shoes fun buckle military girlscout shoes.Of many of the girlscouts she was very lovely with a delicate nose, red lips, and slender legs wonderfully clean girl and who took good care of herself for she when the opportunity presented itself took baths twice a day and never had any dirt under her finger nails.All the child scouts of course were equally clean.Besides her stood Jack in his boyscout uniform.The great flood and the horrors on shore was a great wondor to them.For a time they might have forgotten there were such things as floods to be in their own fair country, and even now they could not hardly believe their eyes.They had seen nothing like it in their lives, nothing like it for, devastation, horror, and sadness.They felt excited.

"Just lok at all that water though, any one floating on a door could not go many miles ."said one of the boys, and then began to feel sillyhe he saw saw Joan looking akask at him for it was absurd to stand on this raft and think of nothing but that.

"How many months would this flood have been existing now? "Joan heard another boy ask his companion.

"About three months at the most."One answered.

"Then how long is it going to continue."

No one could answer this question, and the thought of it gave them all "goose flesh".

"The flood would be unusually marvelous if it had not been for its horror.It would also be hevgood for many farmers.What do you think."

"Anither another boy nodded."I have an opinion that the flood would be a good thing too."

"Good thing"suddenly said Joan almost severely."A flood like that----"

The boys looked askase askance at each other.There was not much it was soon to boast of here, andnost of the boy or girlscouts were in almost ragged and stained and dirty and stayed stained.It seemed hopeless to explain [illegible]

"We could [illegible] this Manleys anyhow"another boy then suggested.Jack was almost pessimistic but it was of no use to be so because it generally did not do on any good to try and take revenge on the foe generals.But when they had considered the picture once more one of the other boys declared himself willing, and evenwent further.

"We might see if we couldn't get a Glandelinian government offic al as well----"

"To get the Glandelinian king might be much better."said Jack not without reason.

"Yes capture the Glandelinian king too perhaps.But that would be a difficult job."

Then Penrod and another boys o scout leader strolled up and they looked at the flood waters around them ad and immediately the conversation became smutty.To think of being surrounded day by day by filthy water, therefore who would not be somewhat smutty would be no soldier.The raft after gliding down a few more miles came in sight of an immense no mob moholization camp for refugees on the ind land.The tents in which most of the refugees were billeted lay nar the edge of the water but high up.A near how by t w town half flooded had been abandoned though one occassionally did see some inhabitants on the house tops.Seeing the approach of the raft, many of the refugees crowded shor oward and some men were in swimmin swimming.There were lots of women along the bank, somewalking slowly and all gazing on the moving raft.Penrod called out to the nearest , and they laughed and stopped to watch the raft.Those who could on the raft flunf remarks at them about the flood, how many lost their homes, if any one were drowned, anything that came into their heads, hastily and all jumbled together anything to get a little information.Jean had always very quick move ean movements and her dressn always swung loosely about her feet.Although the water was not clean the swimmers were jovial and did their best t to interest those on the raft hoping they would stay for a while.They tried to make k jokes and they laughed and beckoned.Jack Sanders was crafty. He decided to get some of them on board ad therefore he ran into one of the tents got a loaf of army bread, and held it up.That indeed proceed a

great effect.Jean, and others nodded and beckoned for some of those on shore and in the water to swim over.But they signalled they did not dare do that ythat it was forbiddenfor them to come too far out on the water, and that there were sentries all along the shore..One cried out it would be impossible without a pass.Jean tried to indicate that if she gave i the command it would be alread all right to come but they shookok their heads and pointed pointed to the nearest sentry.Some of the women a had turned away and was walking slowly down along the shore, keeping along the tow path all the way.The raft was still continuing on .Jack called out to those on shore that if they could not come he would ask permission from Miss Aronburg to beach the raft there, but one of the children on shore pointed to a large tan tent that stood a little distance away among the trees and the shrubbery.

Jack asked;

"Do the chiefs of the Refugee Camps lif live there."

The child laughedand said;

"That's the headquarters of the Relief Committee.

"I'll ask Miss Aronburg our superior if we may land." said Jack.

Some of those on shore raised their hands, put them together, rested their faces on them and shut their eyes.Eagerly they assured those on shore that the scouts would bring something with them.And other tasty bits too, the boys rolled their eyes and tried to explain with their hands..One man in the water nearly drowned himself trying to demonstrate a sausage.Jack said if he had enough on board the raft the leaders would promise the refugees a whole quarter masters store but did not have very much themselves..One of the younger refugee children on shore were moving off however but frequently turned and lookdd looked back.Those onboard the raft were full of excitement at the sight of so many refugees on shore.And for some reason or other Jack noticed that the sky was turning bottle green. Jack and Jean got hold of a whole army loaf and wrapped it up in newspapers.Other things that could be spared were put in too as well as three or four good rations of liver-sausage that the girlscouts had secured in a raid. What should indeed make some decent armount for the unfortunate refugees. They stowed the things away carefullily in their canvas bags, and then those who were going to land put on their boots which they need to protect their feet agains against treading on wire, and broken glass and other flood tossed debris on the shore.As they must take boats, for the raft could not be landed too close they decided to take other provisions like brady and other drinks which is needed for sick refugees.The camp too was no not far and smoke in the sky was getting quite dark?

Som got into the boats with their boots in their hands.Swiftly the boats glided through the water, and when the boats were beached they got out and climbed carefully on the bank, took out the packages and put the things under their arms.And so about ten of the boys broke into a trot, coming to the camp in a short while.They reached the Committee tent that lay among the thick cluster of trees.One of the boys tripped over a root and skinned his elbow.

"No matter, this is not as bad as a bullet wound"he said gaily.

There stood near too a small house which windows were shuttered.Som of the boys slipped round the house and tri tried to peer through the cracks.A little girl refugee coming up said, that was where her parents and she were sheltered. Suddenly Jack said hesitatingly to one of his boys;

"What if the Glendalinians would suddenly descend upon this refugees camp."

"Then the refugees and all of us would clear off."grinned the boy "And we have plenty of ammunition aboard the raft.The door of the courtyard stood open. Also the house door had opened achink of light shone throughand a woman cried out in a scared voice.

"Boyscouts come to the refugee camp with little provisions."said Jack and showed his packages. Women and children were now on the scene, the door of the house opened wide, and the light flooded over the boys.Jack and two of his comrades ventured in.A small lamp was burning in the room, which was warm.Jack and his two boys unwrapped his parcels and handed them over to the woman.Her eyes shone, it was evident that they were really hungry.

For a moment at the sight of so many refugees on the outside the boys became rather embrassed.Jack made to the women gestures of eating, and then the family in the refugee house came to life again and brought out plates and knives and fell to on the food and they even held up every sli ce of liver sausage and admired it before they ate it, as Jack sat proudly by. The children overwhelmed Jack with their prattle--he nunderstood very little of it but he listened for the words sounded v friendly.The children four of them two boys and two girls were evidently friendly.One of the little girls stroked Jacks hair, and he held her arm tightly and in a friendly manner pressed his lips into the palm of her hand.He looked into her bewildering

eyes, the soft brown of the childs skin, and her red lips.she could not fully understand, him and to him she looked decidedly foreign.Thereware many tents as the camp was large.The refugees were of the flood as he learned.At the sight of all the refugees his desires were strangely compounded of yearning and misery.He felt giddy too.How different was all this from the condition of all his comrades on the raft.He wished he had never seen these sad sights but yet desired to turn his mind to them and yet felt afraid.He hoped that perhaps a miracle may happen and change all these horrors into something more pleasant.

After a time Jack reassembled his boys outside again and took their leave from the mobolization camp warmly.The air of the land was warm and the rustling pines loomed large in the half night darkness caused by smoke. Jack in the return to the boats did not allow any one to run but to march slowly and properly.After all were on board the raft Jack was called to Gertrudes tent. She gave him a l leave pass and a travel pass to go about the refugee camp for a full day to get some stories from the refugees impossible as to how they recieved their plight.Jack looked to see how many hours time he had.It was about seventeen hours.The girl and boy scouts con gratulated Jack.Jean gave him good adfi advice and told hi b him jokingly he ought to get information on who "blow up Abbiesnn.".Yet over all hang a dense cloud of smo e smoke. Was the distant forest fire chag changing course or following them.?.Every one on board the raft were drinking milk .

Jack did not believe it was enough, ad he asked Gertrude whetherwhe could not have five days for traveling through the mobolization camps of the refugees,,,,.Gertrude pointed to his pass.. There Jack observed he did not need to return to the raft immediately as it was compelled to stay there for some days to wait for the breaking up of an bronze wreckage iam.And thenafter his leave Jack was to also report back to the raft to give George The German boy a course of training so he w would be fit when he got the commission to be a boyscout..Everyone congra u congratulaed Jack.Yet Jack for some reason or other felt he would rather not have gone for another eight days for he did not like the idea of roaming round a refugee camp when it was much better on the raft.Before leaving Jack also had to recieve instructions as to what to do whenhe was in the camp.At night Jack got ready to get into the boat.He was

almost afraid to tell his friend Jean Saunders, that he was going away.But she told him that he neadn't worry she was commissioned to go with him.So with the approach of darn darkness both wen o into the boat.Many of the boy and girlscouts went to the railing side of the raft to watch them offf.James and Fracis came with him.At the halt on shore Jack learnd that it will be a co uple of hours walk before they get to the refugee camp. The others had to go back to the raft on duty, and so they took leave of one another..

"Good luc luck Penrod.Good luck every one."

They went back on their return and waved once or twice, and their figures as the boat glided away beganto dwindle.Yet Jack could recognise them at any distance as long as they were stillll within sight. Then they disappeared in the darkness, ad Jack a d ad Jean sat down to rest before going ahead.Then suddenly he became filled with a consuming impatience to be gone.

As he waited for Jean to get ready to start Jack laid down on a station platform, dreaming how often he had stood before an Angelinian soup soup kitchen, how often he had squ atted on many a branch, then as he recollected himself and looked out into the darkness the landscape looked to him very gloomy, mysterious, and yet somewhat familiar.He could see the distant hills and forests with villiages, their tatched roofs like strange caps, the great forest fields, the small cornfields gleaming strangely in the light of distant camp fires, distant orchards, and barns of a bright redcolor.

Jack also realized that distant glares in the sky began to take on some meaning and his heart trembled.All the smooth meadows, fields, farmyards all places before which he had seen peasants stading and waiting for trains girls waving children playing on the embankments roads leading into the beautiful country all now was under water..The whole scene was a heart ache to him.In the distance the shoft glare before which the black silhouette of mountain ranges appeared, Jack recognized the characteristic outlines of great camps .Not far off he knew was Sanitary Creeneck..He fancied sometimes the fire glare streamed literallily through the world dissolving everything in its o golden red light light.H remembered one beautiful road that wound round one curve and then another,,, far away, in a long line one behind the other lined in beautiful fir and populars uns ubstantial forms swaying dark, fashioned out of shadow light ad and desire.And all these were gone.

Small hills looked like islands as the raging flod flood waters encirled it, and the intervals between the trees,, and h the waters l also diminished, the trees at first had become a block, and then afterwards you see one or none than everything disappeard disappeared and water and sky met in a long line the deepest of the flood hiding under it even tall and substantial houses. Jack knew his own city,was gone.He remembered his home near a street crossing and how often he had stoooed by a window unable to drag himself away when it used to be sowing snowing hard.In the streets he had watched the passing of cyclists, lories, and people of all kinds. We seeing Jean coming got up as he heard the noise of cries from sentries far away.He picked up his pack and fastened the straps, took his small rifle in his hand, and stumbled onwards.Reaching the outskirts of the refugee camp he stoped to look around but knew he no os one among the people hurying to and fro with wild sad looks on their faces.A Red Cross Sister offered Jac, Jack something to drink thinking he was one of the refugees.Jack however turned away.Outside west of the refugee camp he could still hear the roar of the flood waters as it rushed foaming along a rough part of the shore.How often had Jack with his friends or sisters sat by the mill bridge of a stream and bre athed the cool acid smell of the stagnant waters how he had leaned over the stilllll water on the wasy side of the bridge, where the green creepers and weeds hung from the piles of the bridge, and on the hot days, rejoin rejoiced in the dashing foam from the rushing streams a over and against rocks. Those good days seemed gone forever.

He remembered when he passed over the bridge, and how he had looked right and lefft, the water being as full of weeds as ever and stilllll shooitng over in gleaming arches. At last Jack and Jean stood before the brown door of a remble cottage with its worn latch, and for a moment his hands grew heavy. He did not feel like intruding yet he must know the circumstanes for the goood of his countree co untry. Finally as Jean poked him he open ed the door and a wonderful freshness seemed to come out to him, to meet him, andvhis eyes seemed dim.As he went up the stairs creaked under his boots.Then upstairs a door rattled, and someone a little ragged girl was looking over the railing.It must have been some kitchen door that had opened, for the house reeked with the smell of potato pancakes.what day now it was Jack could not remember.For a moment Jack felt shy and lowered his he head then he took offf his soldier capde pap and looked up, and saw it was a little girl.

"A Calverinian boyscout"she cried"A boy scout----

Jack nodded, his pack bumping against the b n banister, his rifle feeling too heavey. She pulled open a door and callled;;;;"Mother, Mother, a christian boy ad girl scout is here."

Jack could go no further----for again the girl cried"Mother Mother, the christian boy and girl scout is here. "Jack leaned against the walll and griped his cap and rifle holding them as tight as he could and yet felt he could not take another step, the staircase seemd to fade before his eyes ad he supported himself with the butt of his rifle against his feet and clenched his teeth fiercely but could not speak a o word for it seemed the little girls call had made him powerless, that he could do nothing.He struggled to make himself laugh as Jeanlooked at him sheepishly, to speak, but no worfs came and so he stoood on the steps,, mie miserable, helpless, paralysed, and against i his will the tears were running down his cheeks.

The little girl came back g agi again and said;

"Why boyscout you look as if you were crying.What is the matter?"

Jack managed to pull himself together and staggered on to the landin g.He leaned his rifle in a corner, set his pack against the walll at Jeans suggest ion, placed his cap on it and flung down his equippment and baggage.Then he said to Jean "Hand me a handkerchief ."

She gave him one and he dried his eyes, and his face.Above him on the wall hanged a great glass case with many colored butterflies that some one evidently had once collected.He wondered why the place was in the middle of the refugee camp and whether the family occupied it, or whether it was a part of the refugee camp..As he continued on up he heard the little girls mother speaking and the sound seemed to come from the bed room.

"Is your mother in bed little girl????Asked Jean as Jack did not yet recover his speech.

"She is ill"the little girl replied."A Glandelin ian hit her on the head with a sword."...

Jean and Jack went in to where she lay and her daughter said as she gave her her hand;"Here is a girl ad boy scout of the christian mother."

The woman was lying still in the dim light.Then she asked anxiously of the boyscout who stood near her;

"Are you wounded?" Jack imagined s he could feael her searching glance.

"No I am all right."said Jack.I have got leave to say you and other refugees a short leave."

Jack could see that the little girls mother was very pale.He asked the little girl to make a light but she hesitated to do so.Somehow or other she seemed afraid to do so.

"Here I lay now"said the poor woman"and when two christian child scouts come to see me I seem to cry n instead of being glad."

"Are you very sick Miss."Jack asked.

"No but I was hurt by a Glandelinian soldier.I am going to get up a little to morrow"she answered"and turning to herlittle daughter who was continually running to the kitchen to watch that the scanty su pper did not burn"And put out the jar of preserved peaches, you would like some of that would you not?" she asked both Jack and Jean.

"But"said Jack somewhat abashed "I didn't come to eat you out of house and home.I've brought you some wholesome privis ions, food ,and cakes, fhs fishes and lots of things to last for weeks."

"We might almost have known you were coming"the little girl now said"We have only for supper potatoe pancakes, and even peaches, coffee, and rasin bread to go with them...."""

"And is this Monday ?"Jeaon asked.

"No little friend it is Friday.Don't you see we don't have meat to night."

"Sit here beside me you two good children."said her mother."It is the first time I have ever seen real girl and boy scouts and in uniform too."

As they obeyed, she lookedcat them.Her hanes hands were white and sickly and frail compared with those of Jean and Jack.For a time they said very little and Jack was very thankful that she did not ask very much.For what ought he to say.Everything he had wished for had not happened excepting that so far he has come out of the horrors of the cruel war saftly and sit here for the first time besides some little girls mother.And in the kitchen stood the little girl making the evening bread and singing, as if the horrors of had not been on .

"You are a dear good boy and girl scout."said the girls mother softly. "I do admire two real little heroes."

By her appearance Jack could see that she was of poor folkswho toil and who are usually full of cares nlw now because of the great disaster.And it was not their way to protest what they already know of the wars horrors.When she said to Jack and Jean by "My dear child scouts" it meant much more than when any one else would use the same words.Jack knew that the jar of Pe ches peaches was the only one they have had for months, and that she has kept it for her husband when he may return from the front.Jack and Jean were sitting by her bed, ad through the window the chestnut trees in a garden opposite glowed in brown and gold.Jack breathed deeply and said and over to himself;

"This is just like being at home.I wish I was at home."And yet the sense of strangeness would not leave him he could hardly find anything of himself in all these tyi things.How he wished this was his mother, and his little sister that J a Jean was also his sister, but no, it was not true.There was a distance a veil between him and his home.Jack went and fetched his pack to the bedside and turned out the things he had brought --a whole swish cheese, that Gertrude had provided him with, two loaves of army bread three pounds of butter two long liver sausages, a pound of sugar, and many other things.

"I suppose you poorvpeople can make some use of that"said Jack.

The mother and the little dauvh daughter nodded.

"Is it pretty bad for provisions up here on account of the floooed andthe enemy?"Jean inquired .

"Yes, there is not much. We were driven from home though by the fire, and not the flood. Do you get enough out in the armies ?"

Jean smiled, and pointedto the things, which Jack had brought..

"Not always quite as much as that of course, but we fare reasonably well.We always get out b st shares in making raids on the enemys camps."

The little girl go went out to bring in the flo foood she hadcooked.. Suddenly her mother seized Jeans hand and asked in a most faltering voice; "Is the war as bad as any one says out there little girl-scout?"

Jean was almost frightened.what could she dare answer to that.The poor wo n woman would not under tsant understand, could never realize its dreadful fury.

"Is it bad Miss."Jean shook her head."You my dear friend cannot ask me to tell you much on g that.I could not tell you what it is like.You couldn't stand it. But then there are always lots of boy and girlscouts together, and besides lady we don't have to go where the soldiers go.With us it isn't so bad.We would not be allowed to take the risks."

"Yes little girl but my husband was here lately on leave and he said it was terribly out there, with the horrible battles, and all the rest of the frights of the war."

Indeed it was just like these poor unfortunate refugees to say that.She continued;"With all the wounds the soldiers suffer, the dreadful shells explosions great fires and floods.. Jean wished that the poor woman did not know what she was saying, for the little girl felt sure the lady was me merely anxious for her and all the girl and boy scouts. Jean wondered"should she tell her all the real dreasful details, how she herself once during some battle came across three enemy breastworks and saw how terrific the battle had been as all the defenders were lying all stif in death or with mangled bodies all with blue faces and dead..A horrible sight too, more tha than she could spent all day long to count by one hundreds.

"I could not tell you much of it you poor lady you couldn't stand it."Jack himself made answer."But we boy and girlscouts as you see are well and fit.We do not go too near any of the battles.We would not be allowed. The generals would not permitit..."

Before the womans tremulious anxiety Jean and Jack recovered their composure .The sick mother desired to get up ad so Jack went out for a while to the little girl who was stilll busy out in the kitchen.What is the matter with your mother!"H e asked.

"She was attacked by a Glandelinian scouting party.She has been in bed two months now, but we did not want to write father as he may be too worried.He is a general in the Abyssinkilian army.Several doctors have been to see her. One of them said, it is a bad wound she recieved."

"That's just it"said Jack."The Gladelinians make more war u on us children and our mothers than they do on anything else.IT'll go to far one day."

Jack and Jean then left for the present to report themselves to the commandant of the Refugee camp to get some information ifpossible..After that slowly Jack wandered through the company streets of the camp. Occassionally the refugees here and there speak to him, but he did not delay long for he had little inclination to talk..On his way back from the barracks a boyscout of some other Regiment no doubt passed by and forgoet to salute Jack.Jack you know had the rank as boyscout Major.Jack called out to the boy. What's the matter sir!"he asked.

"Can't you salute when you pass me!"Blustered Jack."And to the girl here too!Where's your right arm!"

"Sorry Major."the boy answered in embrassment"I didn't notice you."

"Doh't you know how to speak properly!"Jack roared.

The boyscout felt rebellious and would like to have hit Jack in the face, for he was of foriegn birth and did not know Abbiannian ways yet, and yet he control ed himself, for his remaining a scout depended upon it, and besides Jack might punish him severely for t.So he clicked his heels together and said;

"I did noy not see you Major Jack."

"Then keep your eyes open."Jack snorted.."What is your name!"

"Knerr Turns."

"What Regiment.!"

The boy gave him full particulars.Even then Jack did not seem to have had enough."Where are they!"

The other boyscout felt he had hadmore than enough and said; " At Evangeline St Claire.I belong to the Regiment under Violet Vivian.!"

"Eh"Jack asked a bit su stupifind.

The boy explained to him that he arived on leave only three days ago since, thinking that Jack would then trot along.But not at all.He got more furious. "You think you can bring your main army line manners here, what. Belong to "Violet Vivian's "Regiment.Violet Vivian.Can't you ever learn to say Princess Violet and so on.Well why don't you learn.We don't stand that sort of things Forigner.Thank God and His Blessed Mother we have discipline here. Twenty paces backwards, double march."he commanded.

The forir foriegn boyscout was mad with rage, but he could not dare say anything to Jack for Jack could put him under arrest if he so desired.So he doubled back, and then marched up to him.Six paces from Jack the boy sprang to a stiff salute and maintained it untill he was six paces beyond him while a number of refugees watching the scene were looking on with smiles on their faces.

Jack called him backagain and gave the boy to understand that for once he was pleased to put mercy before justice as Abbiannians usually do.The boy however pretended to be duly grateful"

"Now dismiss"said Jack.The boy then turned smartly and marched off.Yet this seemed to ruin the evening for Jack for it was an insult to him especially when a girlscout is with him to have some foriegn upstart go by without having sev sense enough to remember to salute.Jack went back to the little girls home .In there he felt awkward.His own uniform was rather tight and short,, and he felt that he had grown while he was in the army.. Collar and tie always gave him some trouble.Once Jean had to tie the bow for him.The uniform nevertheless was very light and it felt to Jack as if he had nothing on bit a shie shirt and under pants.Jack looked at himself at in the glass to see if he was cleannn enough. Yet it was a strange sight. Jack observed he was a sunburned overgrown boy for his age,,, and he gazed at himself i in astonishment.

The little girls mother was pleased to see Jackand Jean wearing the bright purple uniforms; for it seemed to make the children less strange to her.She ptbldJack she had suggested to her little daughter of joining several clubs but she had refused for the reason that she was a little afraid, of the consequences of being one and of the hardships she might have to undergo.To Jack and Jean too it seemed pleasant to be a le now to sit quietly somewhere for a time, on one of the benches in the street of the Refugee camp for example under the big singing pine trees .The leaves make a humming sound in the breeze.A glass of milk stood before him on a small table, for Jack loved milk better than even most of us do Ice Cream or soft Drinks.The glass was half empty after his third helping but there were still a few good swigs before him and besides he could drink more if he wished as it wasout of his own bottles.Here there were no bugle s unds and no noise of battles, the children of the refuggees were playing in the center of the camp or standing in groups talking, and a big gentle dog belonging to som one had come up and rested his head against Jacks knee.The sky was gray of smoke.The scene would be good Jack would have liked it, if only the sun would shine..He could not get on how the people here who were refugees did not show their grief over their losses of home and so on.The little girls mother however was the only one who did not ask him or Jean any questions.One of the refugees a man wanted Jack to tell him about the christian armies, his experiences as a boyscout, what he saw in battles and was curious in a way that Jack found stupid and distressing, and Jack finally answered that it was against the law of the military to give any information which cannot be proven about the war.Yet it seemed there was nothing that this man liked more than hearing about the war.Jack realized that he did not know that a boyscout cannot talk of such things against the rules, in deed Jack would do it willingly, but it was too dangerous for him to put these into words when you cannot tell whether either the questioner or others near by may be a secret enemy in disguise looking for information.what would become of everything if Jack would reveal everything that was quite clear to him.So Jack confined himself by telling him that if he desires to obtain o information, he must first prove his d identification, and go before an Abbiannian Information Committee as boy and girl scouts are not allowed to give information to none but christian officers or to members of their own kind.Then he wanted to know from Jack whether he had ever had a hand to hand fight with the enemy.Jack answered;

"You people are i gnorant.You don't understand.N o we have no hand to hand fights, we scouts when in the army are not allowed within a mile from or near the battle line .You should understand that."and he then got up, and followed by Jean walked away....But that did not end matters.After he and Jean had been startled a couple of times by some screaming noise which resembled the shriek of a shell coming straight tward him(thoughnit was the scream of Falcons" someone tappped him on the shoulder.It was a man in the uniform of a Refugee Camp Commissioner and he said to Jack in the usual question which had bored Jack;

"Well how are things out there in the devastated districts!Terrible, terrible eh!Yes it is most dreadful, but we must carry the war on and on.And after all you do at least get decent food out there in the armies so I hear.You look well my dear boy, and fit and strong, and so does your " sister"here with you. Naturally its worse here.Naturally.I hear they had a great battle at Evangelin e St Claire and lost.The best forour soldiers everytime is to fight good and hard, that goes without saying."

He dragged Jack and Jean along to a table with a lot of other officers of the camp.They welcomed the child scouts warmly, a head committee man shook hands with both and said;;;

"So you are two of the good child scouts who come from Emperor Vivians splendid army.What is the spirit out there like !Excellent,eh, Excellent!"
Jack explained that the war was not what it was cracked upto be.
"I can well believe it my boy"he said it."But we'll soon give the wicked Glandelinian cuts a very good drubbing. Do you go near the battle line.Do you drink coffee!No!Here try one cup full.I'll see that one of the others bring it for you.""
Jack accepted the coffee, .The Committee were so good and kind hearted that it was impossible for Jack and Jean to object.All the same they felt annoyed to realize they did not understand the situation as he did.Yet in order to make some good show of appreciation Jack tossed off the beer in onevgood gulp.Immediately a second cupfull was ordered, and indeed the committee seemed to know how much they are inde bted to boysoldiers.Then they started to argue on what the war should bring.The Headcommitee declared Glandelinia what's to have at least the whole world under her wicked power, to ruin all christian Religions, and that Abbieannia should rise in all her might in opposition.He produced reasons why Glande'inia wanted to do all this, why her war was for child slavery and was quite inflexible untilll at last the others gave in to him.Then he began to expound just whereabouts the break in the Glandelin ian front must be coming sooner or later and turned to Jack!"Now the christian armies should shove ahead a bit over there with their everlasting warfare---smash through the Catties; and then there will be peace and the world willl be safe for all Christianity."
Jack replied!
"A break through as soon as you expect may be impossible.So far the enemy have too many reserves; Myletze is menacing Angelinia Agathia with three hundred seperate armies, Glandelinia still holds Vivian Wickey, and besides the war with all this devastations may be rather different from what many other people think."
However the man dismissed the idea loftily and informed Jack that little boys and girls knew nothin g about it."You might know the details"he said"But not the whole.You say you are not allowed to approach too close to the battle lines during the fighting.Therefore of the situation you are not able to judge. Only the generals can do that.You see only your little sector durin your travels and so cannot have a general syrvey .Yet even you boy and girlscouts do your duty; you risk your little lives, you do things that deserve higher honor than soldiers do- -every child of you ought to have decorations and will; but believe me lad the time will come with the help of God and His Blessed Mother that all of the enemys lines will be broken through in Calverin ia, and our sister states and then rol e rolled away like a receding wave."
"You are talking nonsense."said Jack.
"No I'm not.They must be completely rolled up, they sure must be from the very top to the bottom.And then to Glandelinia."
Jack wondered how he picutred it to himself and finally broke away with Jean.He sent the two children off with a friendly handshake and said;
"All of the best.I hope we will soon hear something worth while from you boy and girlscouts."
Jack imagined everything would be different from all this.Indeed it was different over a year ago.Everything h as changed in the interval.There lay a dangerous gulf between that time and the present now. A year ago Jack still knew nothing about the fury of the dreadful war, for he had been in only quiet sectors.But now he began to see that Calverinia had been crushed without knowing itand needed Abbieannia('s assistance as Angelinia State had her hands full. Indeed everywhere Jack went he imagined he was either in Hell or Purgatory. Some of the refugees asked questions, and some asked no questions but told him and Jean of their sad misfortunes, and yet one can and could see they w re quite confident that they knew all about the horrors of the disasters more than anyone, that the whol c whole world was in apprehension so that there was no p oint in discussing it.The war made up a picture of helous it was, but a hell where it seemed the righteous suffered, and the wicked got the gooods out of it.Jack prefered sometimes to be alone so that no one would trouble him.For when he speaks to anyone they all come with the same thing; how badly the war goes, how fierce the enemy is, one thought the enemy i was this way, another that, and yet they were always absorbed in the things that go to make up an existance of a perdition on earth.Jack however felt the same way himself. It seemed to Jack they were talking too much about it.Of course they all had their worries about the situation worries that Jack even could not readily comprehend. Jack was that night sitting with an old woman and

tried to explain to him that this conflict was reallly the only one thing; Glandelinia just trying to anihilate christianity so she could have a place in the world herself.She understood of course, she agreed, she said she even felt it so too, but only with some consideration, they also felt it but the rest of their thoughts were taken up with other things, the fire, the floods, the disappearance of whole landscapes, the wiping out of big citie, the murderous massacres of children and everything else so that Jack himself could not even say exactly what he meant.When Jack observed the refugees here, in their improvised tents or huts, and about their usual occupations, he felt an irrestible atttraction to it, he would like to be here too and forget the war , for the nature of the war repelled him it is so dreadful that he could not hardly stand it, but how can he do it and face greater peril outside the army, and whilevout at the front the splinters are whinning over the breastworks and the star shells go up to the immense droves of wounded are carried back; and comrades by millions fight the enemy.They were different monin these refugee camps, old men, not one of them young; and women and children. Finally Jack returned to the cabin where the mother and her little daughter were and in the room behind the table he observed standing there a brown leather sofa.He and Jean sat down on it.
Jack observed that on the wall were pasted countless religious pictures that were cut out of Catholic books.In between were drawings and religious poscards that were of the Saints.In the corner was a large kitchen range.Jack wished he had lived in this room before the war had come.The books in the case looked to be second hand, and all kinds of fairy stories for example and there was one volume in black cloth.He wondered if the little girl had read most of them, for though he yet was a small boy; fairy stories really never appealed to him.He always preferred the other books books too which were not so expensive as fairy stories.In high class stories in American cities story books for children cost as we well know over two dollars, k much too high a pricant that, but in Abbieannia a four dollar book you couldn't get for 10 dollars now.He saw that one of the shelves was filled with school books of al l kinds.They were well cared for too, and he looked through one and found than it and others were not even thumbed, and not one page had been torn.Children in Abbieannia were more careful of their books than even in this country grown people are.Then below he found periodicals, papers, and letters all jammed in together with drawings and rough sketches.Now Jack wished to think himself back into the good old times when the conflict had not come.It was very still in the room, he felt the silence at once, it seemed that even the walls had preserved it.His hands were resting on the arms of the sofa, and here he seemed to make himself at home and he drew up his legs so that he sat comfortably in the corner in the arms of the sofa.The large window was open and through it westward he saw the familiar picture of the flood and flo ating houses with the rising spire of a church protruding out of the black muddy waters.There were a so couple of flowers on the table; pen holders, a sea shellll as a paper weight, an ink well-- here nothing was chan ged.The room was well kept and cleaned, but he wone wondered why there were no Religious ppe pictures hanging on the wall.Jack felt excited even though he did not want to be for it did not seem right, to prry into their private affairs, though he know if they were not Catholics, they would be deported if it was found out.He felt more that he wanted the quiet rapture again, he wanted to feel the same powerful urge th t he used to feel when he turned to his own books at home.The breath of the desire that then arose as he had looked over his best books should then fill him again melt the heavy dead lump that seem to lay somewhere in him and waken again the desires of the future the quick joy of having good time that all children desire; that it should bring back again the lost eagerness of his babyhood days.Jack looked soberly out the window waiting indeed for the little girl to come.He saw nothing beyond but the sober picture of the dreadful flood; but eastward far off appeared a range of hills all aflame, the scene was like a dreary h day in late autum.He wondered if the sun was ever gone to shine again..
But he felt he did not want to think of that; and he tried to sweep the thought away.Jack desired for the moment to feel that he belonged here, that the little girl was his youngest sister, and he also wanted to harken and know when he was to go back to the raft on the morrow the horrible war will sink down with the recession of the flood be drowned uterly in the g reat home coming tide, know that it will be then passed forever; and not knew the whole population continually, not reek with the bloody horrors of such disasters that it would have nothing but an outwardpower over the whole human race.He glanced again at the books, whose backs stood in rwows.He implored them with his eyes he desired to have on e but did not care to ask.

He waited, and waited, and still the little girl did not appear.Strange things rioted through his mind, but they did not grip him at all they seemed to be mere shadows and and memories.Nothing seemed good, nothing behaved all was disorder, and a terrible feeling of dejected mess suddenly rose up in him. Nothing stirred, and listless and wretched like some one condemned to the gallows, Jack sat there looking out the window.And at the same time he feared to think of the horror too much, because he could not tell what might happen..He was a boyscout, a soldier he must cling to that idea.He stood up with a weary sigh and looked out once more , and then he took one of the books intending to read, and turned over the leaves.But heput it away and took out another.He saw that there were passages in it that were kept inplace by papers at the pages.He looked turned over the pages, and then took up fresh books, but all were Childrens Fairy Stories.Already the books were piled up beside him.Speedily more joined the heap, papers, l magazines, and even the geographies..Jack stood there as dumb as if he was me before a judge.He was indeed dejected.Th The wording of the books did not reach him and slowly he placed the books back in the shves as he had found them.Quietly he went out of the room, still not giving up hope.

For n time he did not go th to the room any more but tried to comfort himself with the thought that a few days are not enough to judge the war by. Afterwards later on there would beplenty of time for that.Jack went over to see some of his well known boy scout friends who were in the camp aiding in taking charge one of the boys kw knows only as James and Jack and Jean who visited his barracks room noticed an atmosphere about it that they both did not like, but with which they were quite familiar.James had some news for Jack and Jean news that electrified both on the spot.He told them th at a Glandelinian soldier had been caught scenscooping around the camp, and had been seized and placed under arrest.

"Just think of it"said he"I am sent here from theerer Vivians army and bumped right into him.I yelled for help and he got captured. Before I yelled he had to try an shield himself I suppose stretched out his paw to me and bleated!"Hullo Kid scout, how are you?"When he was taken t looked at him and said;"Whatever your business is I do not know but you ought to know the penalty for anyone spying on a refugee camp.Stand to attention when you even speak to a boyscout as I'm your superior officer whether you are a foe of or of our side."You should have seen his face, it was like a cross between a owl and a pickled cucumber.He to getout of it tried once more to chim up but I snubbed him a good bit harder.I said;

"Mr Glandelinian soldieryou with all your country was responsible for all that water out there I'll bet a fortune.People have been killed of whom none of us know I don't know whether I am an orphan or whether my parents are still living.If it had not been for you Glandelinians carrying on the war in this suggested fashion all of our folks and little children would be alive now Take him away boys. You Mr glandelinian will hear from me later."It was easy to get some guards to watch him.First thing the iron did was to fit the prisoner with refugee clothing.I'll take you to him and you'll see in a minute."

The three went to where the prisoner had been taken.T'ere Jack and Jean saw the prisoner a d and w re hardly able to stifle their laughter.The prisoner was wearing a faded blue surge suit suit.On the back and in the sleeves there were big dark patches.The Overcoat must have belon ged to the "giant"that Jack of the Bean stalk killed. The blue worn breeches were just too much wide and short they barely reached half way down his thighs.The shoes tough old shoes looking like clod hoppers with far turned toes and laces at the side were far much too big for him.But as a compensation the hat was too small, a terribly dirty one, indeed the whole rig out was just pitiful. James stopped in front of the prisoner.

"Mr Glandelinian do you call the buttons of my uniform coat polished?You seemas if you cannever learn.Here take the coat and do it over again."

This made Jack bubble over with glee.James continued to upbraid him"Look at these boots.I done them myself this morning.There's a model for you to learn from."

The Glandelinian prisoner shot a glance at both Jean and Jack as if he would like to eat them.Nothing yet looked more ludicrous than the prisoners cap and his prison garb.And this was one of the objects before whom many a child could have stood in dread.and now here stands a rebel soldier the spell quite broken with bent mess knees, arms like pothooks and the t ludicrous rigout, looking like an impossible soldier.Jack and Jean could not reconcile this with the menacing figure in gray uniform.

Jack wondered what he the oldest boyscout in Violet's regiment would do if this glandelinian soldier would dare to say to him"You little christian dog.". There were many of the refugee boys in this camp ti to Jack's surprise who were joining th e boyscouts under James and James showed how he makes them practice skirmishing and as a favor appointed a long tall boy as squad leader. Now in skirmishing the squad leader has always to keep twenty paces in front of his squad, and he has to be an expert or he would not get to be the squad leader as skirmishing is a hard drill.When the order comes "On the march about turn"the line of skirmishers simply turn about as fast as possible but the squad leader who would now find himself suddenly twenty paces in the rear of the line has to rush up at the double and take hisposition again twenty paces in front of the squad.Th at makes altogether fourty paces double march.But no sooner has he arived then the order"On the march, about turn "comes again and he once more has to race at top speed another fourty paces to the other end.In this way the squad of boys has made merely the turn about and a couple of paces while the squad leader dashes backward and forward like a frightened quail.If he is not able to catch up and do the proper things of this dril he cannot be no squad leader, for he has the full command of the squad and an honor too.In the mean time the tall boyscout was dashing up and down like a wild bear but he managed it always and came through with his usual cheerful and exultent grin.After a while James stopped the skirmish drill and began the very important exercise of creeping.On hands and knees carrying his gun in regulation fashion the long boy shoved his figure over the sand immediately in front of Jack and Jean.However he was sweating, and though grinninghe spit out a dirty piece of wood that had lodged in his teeth.It amused Jack that the Glandelinian prisoner did not "explode with a bang, especially when Jack copied him on a piece of paper with a pecil to perfection making a funny "Valentine picture" of him.

"Couldn't you polish the or so prisoner up a bit"Jack asked of James.

"No he is too stupid, I couldn't be bothered."answered James contemptuously."

As he returned toward the little girls home Jack wondered to himself;

"What is leave? a pause that only makes everything after it so much worse. No wonder soldiers do not accept furloughs during this war.Already the sense of parting would br begin to intrude itself.The little girls mother watched Jack silently----Jack knew she had counted the days of her husbands absence, every morn morning she was sad.She even did not want to see Jack and Jean go away and had put away their packs so that she would not be reminded of it.Yet the hours pass too quietly if a boy or man broods.Therefore Jack pulled himself together, and at nine oclock that night went with the little girl to the edge of the flood ,and showed her the raft in the distance and those that were working on it or on guard duty.The little girl said;

"These days grow more restrained and my mothers eyes are always more sorrowful.Oh how I wish the war was over and papa would come home.We are afraid we'll never see him, or he'll come back a cripple. I remember the day when my Aunts husband was killed and I had to go and tell him.Who could imagine this quaking sobbing woman, my poor mum t who shook me and cried out to me"Why are all the rest living then when he is dead.!"She always almost drownedme in her tears as she almost madly cried out"What are you here for at all child when you should be a scout in the army""and she dropped into a chair and wailed"Did you go to see him your poor Uncle.?Did you see him then?"

"When I answered yes"She demanded "How did he die"and I told her he was shot through the heart and died a few hours later.However she looked at me, she dri doubted me and cried without reason"You lied to me Jane.I know better.I have always felt terribly how he was going to die, I have heard his voice at night, I have felt his anguish---tell the truth Jane please.I want to know it I must know it. "No"I said"I was beside him.He died in a few hours.So was ma"shepleaded with me gently."Tell me Jane please.You must tell me your poor Aunt.I know you want to comfort me but you only torment me far more than if I knew the truth.Better the truth from you than from some one else.I cannot bear the uncertainity.Tell me how it was and even though ithwill be terrible it will be far terrible or far better thanwhat I may have to hear from someone else if you don't."But my boy friend I could not tell her anytin anything more when it was not so even though she would make mince meat out of me for n ot telling more.I tried to come comsole her but she struck me as rather stupid all the same.I t id her again that he died a few hours after being shot.That he felt absolutely nothing at all.His face was quite calm."T"en she was silent

before she said slowly,"Will you swear to it."?
"I answered YEs,"and she then asked"by everything that is sacred to you?"I only answered "Yes, I tell you he died in a few hours.If you don't believe me you won't believe the doctor either."She then asked me"are you willing to join the girlscouts and never come back yourself as long as the war rages if it is not true."So I answered "Yes for I kn owing it was the truth would swear to ano anything.But even then she did not seem to believe me.She moaned and wept steadily and I had to tell how it happened, what battle he was killed and I told her.It was at one of the battles where the army of our side had to run most disgracefully.As I left she kissed me and gave me a picture of him.In his soldier uniform he looked splendid and yet how beautiful it would be if he had not gone to this frightful war.I want to be a girlscout but I'm afraid."

It was time now for all the compto turn in.Everyone was silent.Jack was given quarters in the house, and he went to bed early.He seized the p llow pillow pressed it against himself and buried his head in it.He was wondere wondering whether he would ever have the chane to lie in a feather bed again. Late in the night the little girls mother came into the room.No doubt she thought the boy was asleeap, and he pretended to be so.To talk and to stay awake with one another it seemed to hard. ' ghe sat long into the night although she was in pain and often writhed.At last Jack could hear it no longer and pretended he had just awakened.

"Go to sleap my poor good woman, you will catch cold here."

"I can sleap enough later"she said.Jack sat up."I don't go straight to the front lady.I am only in the command of scouts belonging to one of the Vivian Girl Princesses."But she was silent.Finally she asked gently;

"Being a little boy, are you not very much afraid, when the war is so frightful."

"No my dear lady.None of us scouts are."

"I would like to tell you to be on your guard against the Glandelinian boy and girlscouts.They are more dangerous than the soldiers."

"Ah poor woman, poor woman"said Jack"You still seem to think I am a timid child why could I notput my own head into your lap ad weep.Why have I been forced into this meele.I would like to weep and be comforted too, indeed I am little more than a baby.But lady we don't meet with the enemy child scouts."

"Yes but you don't know "said she."You should be very careful.The enemy is more dangerous to children to our own kind than they are to the soldiers who fight them.""Ah my poor dear lady.Isure will be careful.We have been instructed to be careful.What poor wretches we all are."

"I will pray for you every day my good little boy.Ad perhaps you can get a job that is not so dangerous."

"Now you must go to sleap lady or you'll be more sick."

She did not reply.Jack got up and wrapped his covers about her shoulders.She then supported herself on the boys arm for she was in pain, and Jack took her to her room.He and her daughter stayed with her a little while.

"You must get well again for the sake of your little girl."said Jack.

"Yes, yes my child."

How destitute she lay there in her bed, she that loved children more than all the world. As Jack was about to leave she said hastily"I have two pair of socks for you.They are all wool.They will keep you warm during your winter campaigning.You must not forget to put them into your packs."

"Ah my poor dear lady!I know what these socks have cost you in waiting, walking and waiting.You are like a mother to me how I hate to part from you."Thought Jack to himself.Here I sit and there you are lying, and we hav e so much to say that we could never sayoit.

"Good night dear l dy and you my little girl friend."

"Good night my child."

Jacks room was now dark.He could hear the little girls mother breathing and the ticking of the clock.Outside the window the hot winds were blowing and the forest trees roaring.On the step landing Jack on his way to be stu bled over his pack which lay there already made up becau se he had to leave for the raft early in the morning.Jack bit into his pillow.He grasped the iron rods of the bed with his fists.He felt he ought never to come here.His hatred of the Glandelinians was becoming bitter.Out on the raft he was indifferent and often hopeless he felt he would never be so again .He was a boyscout and now he was in a distress himself for ever ything seemed to him without comfort. He felt he ought never have come to the refugee camp.He saw too much sorrow here, a sorrow which made his heart steel itself in his hatred of the foe.

"What do you think of this letter Angeline?"

"It makes me think of what Miss turner is.As she now has been in the christian army for over three days"Angeline richee richee replied"I don't think I can say anything about it yet Gertrude.But she is a miracle.All

Girl and boy scouts have always behaved somewhat differently than she has done. However she seems quiet in her way of going about things and that is something. She even took care of Emperor vivians room and keeps it carefully dusted."

O"One of the generals who met her in his room one morning" Jane Melfort said"And it seemed as she wrote here that the general believed her face reminded him of some one whom he had lost.Did that ever strike you?"

"No t at all Angeline richee replied decidedly."I have n ot time to be given to fancies about such things at all.I saw no likeness to any one and if I had done so I would not have given it a thought at all.The one point with us leaders is whether the child scout, inferior or a leader is clean, quint, steady and completely up to her work. Every reference a scout brings say he or she would be all these things and they all have proved to be so.Of course Jennie is much older than some of us.A younger girlscout is teachable but when a girl or boy scout has gotten into certain ways there is never ay altering them.However she is not a girlscout you must remember though she is with us.She's never been one, she's one of the Vivian Girls professional spies and you must not forget that..She even after she returned to Emperor vivians army has settled down to her duty espe ic especially to find the lost or mysteriously missing plans.She knows all her work and does it most carefully.The girlscouts who were new thought she was a new comder an comer and did not understand her ways even when they saw she was their superior.Jennie is pleasan t and most friendly with them all and they to her but somehow"she is not" as one of them said"of their sort."She's too high ranked to be a girlscout..However they are evidently obliging to her and quiet about their ser services to her .However as she wrote her Jennie had not been fourty hours in the place before she discovered that there was anom obstacle in the way of her search that she had not forseen.She had as a favor dusted the drawing room and other rooms and then went to the door of the room she knew must be the Lib rary belonging to the Vivian Girls in Emperor Vivians headquarters.She found it locked and wondered why since they were missing. At dinner she had asked one of the girlscouts what the room opposite the sleeping quarters of the Princesses was, ad w and where was the key...

"That is their library."The girl had told her so she writes."Violet and her sisters always keeps it l ocked, and no one but themselves or their father is allowed to go in.It's just as they had left it before they were gone. The reason it is locked now is they orone of them has the key, and they are gone. Other girls used to go in with violet and her sisters only on invitation.Jennie also thinks the room was used for another reason.. "

"What was that Dolores Mic-Hollester a asked.

Jane Melfort shook her head, and glanced at the sentry as much as if to say as if she did not care to contin ue the conversation before him, and so the guard was asked to go outside and close the door, and then Jan proceeded;

"I don't want to say anything before any sentry not knowing whether it may a be a disguised foe you know.The girlscouts who helped Jenie thinks there is some one who knows something about it, and that probably the plans had disappeared at the time Violet, and her sisters disappeared.But they forgot that Jennie was a stranger and"didn't know anythin g about the missing plans.

Then one of the girls told Jennie all about the plan being missing since violet, and her sisters could not be found, and how one of the officers who helped made the plans said that the Glandelinians who may have kidnapped th them must have secured the plans also, or maybe they were in the library which was the only room not searched.She writes that the girlscout believes that there is some one who may know something about it for if they did not have it in their possession when captured by the foe they must have stowed it away in some secret hiding place, and therefore Jennie had got all the soldiers to look for it again and to pull down more of the wainscotting and all sorts.And if of course if there was a secret hiding place then only Violet, and her sisters must alone know of it.The girlscout used to think the reason why Violet, and her sisters had the room shut up and would never allow any one to go in it unless they were there themselves was that the hiding place was somewhere in the library and that they were always afraid a secret Glandelinian boy or girlscout may be in their ownranks.The same conclusion Jennie writes has flashed across her own mind,,, as soon as she heard that the room was always kept locked."If the plans is reallly hidden away"she told the girl"It islikely enough as you may say; but I don't understand why those Princesses would hide it there."

"Oh you surely must not know them."The girlscout said."They are seven war girl saints if there ever were any, but they are cautious as cats and sometimes would hunt one ab ut all over the house if they thought she or

he was a glandelinian girl or boy scout, and was going to steal something. They are very fond of their father, and their uncle and therefore they never liked the thought, that his or their plans might be too taken away from them by secret enemy spies and the like for fear that some one else might become masters of the situation and cause the enemy to produce a grave disaster to the christian armies. Jennie and the girlscout were of one mind so it writes here and ,that the Princesses were likely to do anything to sheild their plans. .Jennie would give a good deal if she could find the plans herself.#

"But the last latter said she had men swraf searching there"said Mildred. "How was it they didn't find it in the library or if the room was not searched how was it Miss Turner did not allowbthem to search there."

"She couldn't help it."Gertrude replied."She explains here in the letter that the door is too tough to be broken down, that was attempted even with explosives and the door would not yeild.Unless a ke key is secured for the lock it'll never be opened.That is why the library was not searched.Only one of the Vivian Girl had or still has the key if her kidnapper did not have for thought enoughto take her from her which we hope he didn't.Jennie proposed to take out all the books from the shelves and to pull down a lot of the woodwork and turn it all upside down but the door couldAt be opened.Still you see Jennie would not allow any of the library windows to be jimmied."

That's what the girlscouts couldn't at first get over.I call it sickening that is what suspicious.Last Sunday she writes the priest made it hot for the Glandelinians and preached a sermon about secrets being known and undiscovered things coming to light."

"Though all are very goodJennie Vivian is much clsverer than her sisters." s sadd Dolores "and if any wrong has beendönee concerning the plans she'll discoverit sure as she is back.Jennie writes she was quite anxious to see the roomafter what the girlscout said of it, even if she had to get in through aJimmied window

Though a Jimmied window.She believes she will be able to see it in about a week.And she will have Empror Vivian come in and watch all the time like a cat watches a mouse .Many of the girls used to say so.But there as you Mi ss Turner are not from this part of the country and as Glandelinian spies and agents won't think that you know anything about the missing plans and the disappearane of Violet, and her sisters or seem to care nothing about it you will be able to work out your plans for their recovery in better circumstances.

And here is something morevimportant she writes.Upon that Sunday Miss Turners qi aide-decamp on the way from a scoutin g tour asked Jennie with some great anxiety whether she was not well.Jennie asked her way, why and she answered that she noticed Jennie looked quite pale, and had lost control of herself once or twice.and seemed as if she reallly was not attending to what she should be doing.Jennie answered that she was afraid that she seemed to be reallly what she was, for she had recieved a tremendous surprise and though she tried hard to keep her thoughts from wandering she was afraid she had succeeded very badly. Her aidedecamp asked what was the matter, and Jennie told her.Jennie asked if her aide-decamp had remembered the letter she had some time ago from Empror Vivian warming her to keep out a lookout for Glandelinian boyscouts.The aide decamp said "Yes, and Jennie continued that after such unusual talk about her being so determined to find the plans and set matters straight, she said that Emperor Vivian warned that she might see rebel boy scouts and spies trailing her before very long.Well you know how both she and Jennie had talked it over and first the aidedecamp could make nothing out of it.Now the letter explains what Jennie means."

"What!"asked Mildred"Did she see any spies."

"She did Mildred, and it was the famous foe of the Princesses, the boyscout Gerald Starring.And where do you thin k he was?"

"I can't guess Gertrude.Why where could he be,and where can he be staying if he was not snooping in the christian lines."

He not recognizing Miss Turner was with a party of boyscouts riding in front of her, and mistaking her for a glandelinian girlscout did not bother her."

"So close to Miss Turner, Gertrude.!Was she not dreaming!"

"Not at all Mildred, there he was sure enough.Jennie could not possibly be mistaken.If there had been any chances she's have surprised them and made them all her prisoners."

The girlscouts were w silent for some time with surprise.

"But what can he be doing so near the christian lines Gertrude!Do you mean to say that Jennie thinks that he either has something to do with the disappearance of the plans, or of Violet and her sisters.

"That is what she thinks."Gertrude replied."You kno w how she said over and over again that she was determined to find those missing plans.Well I believe she has in some way believed that he has something to do with both.Now you can imagine t how it was that Jennie had some difficulty in keeping her thoughts from wondering.".

"No indeed Gertrude."And I am sure if I had been in herplqce place I should have tried to capture him.Well if that is the situation is sure explains what she says in her letter about the boy and his companions fortunately not recognizing her, but how could she accomplish her purpose,and what will come of her attempt.!"

"I have no idea how she will manage to get there Mildred but certainly she says she trailed Starring into the very Glandelinian camps and alone.what she is going or did do there was clear enough.She went to general Manleys headquarters disguised as a Glandelinian girlscout to search for the missing plans.Whether she found it or not we can see in the latter partof the letter but I could hardly believe she could succeed.Still if she tried I hope the letters tells of her luck for I have not a shadow of doubt about it."

"I should never have thought for a moment she was the sort of girl to undertake such a dangerous stunt."Jane Melfort said."Why she being disguised as a scout and if she does get away with it, will have do to do servant work for Manley and his generals and to run all sorts of risks of being found out w ooner or later and knowing what the Glandelinians are t it is horrible to think what they might then do to her."

"I don't see that they could do much Jane unless they were better shots than she for she is terrible on the guns, and she has never been captued yet.Still it required no ordinary pluck for that girl to undertake such a scheme as the letter says and if she did succeed it required patience and nerve to carry it through but I dont know that I would agree with you that she is not the sort of girlscout I should have thought not able to undertake such a business for she never failed in anything yet.She was quiet enough when we first knew her but from what we know of her she is a high spirited strong willed girl, and when we first saw her you know she was on the even of parting with her eldest sister Jane.And she was evidently wrappen up in her that of course would make her more quiet and silent than usual.She however bore up remarkably well at gh the sudden death of her youngest sister Francis and all admired the effort with which she strove to aid the Vivian Girl Princeasses in their own work."

"But how about Jean Saunders Jane!Had we better tell her ab ut this.You see if she happens to get this letter Gertrude she might be dispirited over the peril that Jennie is facing."

"That is certainly a difficulty my dear but the letter we did not see all through yet.It's the longest we ever recieved.Ithink we had betterpospone the matter by keeping Jean and Jack a few days longer inspecting the refugee camp.We have never cared to let her go away from us but it will be good for her to be at leave for a few days.Or we can read the letter through for I beliebe believe Jennie did succeed."

"Perhaps she did Gertrude though I would not count upon that too much.Evans too has not returned with Violet, and her sisters yet you know or we would have heard of it and this is the IOth of August only already.I imagine that as Miss Jennie Turner has nerve and coura e enough to propose and to carry out this singular plan of hers, she must have had resolution enough to continue to play her part till she either found the plans or became absolutely convinced that it was absolutely either not to be found, or that it may be in the library and that only Violet, and her sisters knows where they are..."

"It says on in the letter Jennie had some great difficulty in restraining all show of excitement and in assuming an passive and indifferent air as upon the first day which was August the 6th she had first entered Manleys lines when Manley unlucked his own room and led the way in to have Jennie clean it up.

"Remember this is also my fathers roon room"he told her.He said to her that he was sure she understood, and that he wished that everything should remain as it is.And that she will therefore be careful to have the child slaves who is working for her to place everything as they found it, each article of furniture and the books and papers on the table.That she need only sweep the floor and dust everything.Beyond that he did not desire anything done to the room.Jennie wrote she did her work and quietly.Manley had watched her for some little time, and then said that she must leave the room open, that it was better to let the air circulate as much as possible and to leave the windows open as the weather was very warm.Jennie writes she had asked if he would like her to clean out the fire place but he said no most decidedly, say ing there was no occassio! occassion for it, and that if he has not returned by the time she has finished the room to come and tell him when she was finished for he always made it a point of locking the dooor himself. She swrites

Manley went out leaving the door wide open before her."

"Do you still believe that I'm wrong when I say I believe the cause of our own will be on the losing side?" Mildred this time asked Gertrude.

"I certainly do."Gertrude said almost coldly."Indeed I do wish you would not be so nervious over such affairs Mildred.You surely show a lack of faith in the cause, ad it seems to me sometimes you have no right to be in the army as a scout at all let alone being one ofour superior girlscout leaders.Indeed the whole world has a great interest in the whole matter.Many other countries may have heard of such rumors from other sources but it does not mean nothing to them, and they scoff at such a ridicuol ridiculious matter.Why Mildred if Abbiannis was fighting for the same cause as Glandelinia's and Glandelin is had our cause, a miracle only could even then win for Gladelinia.You ought to know as well as I do that there is no chance of Glandelinia winning the war not even by accident.If there was oril for our cause, our Main Chiefs ,Violet, and her sisters would not go.through all their trilas, sufferings and hardships and would have left the country for firewn lands with their parents.Of course many of their own scouts had been always talking about the same thing as you always do and Viole and her sisters put a stop into it.The whole world has an interest in the cause, i and if we couldn't win it alone, they would come to our aid.My being in the girlscout Regiments under empror vivians main excited concern to believe such reports as untrue.I should have never done it in any case if the cause was going to lose, ad you should not be so absurdly nervous for you should know very well there is no real danger of the Glandelinian country ever coming out successful, ad also I'll bet you anything Violet and her sisters or some of their assistants will even find out about the mystery of this flood and way before this y ar is out too.Many any Jennie gurrar willnever find the lost plans no matter how closely she looks for it.That is true only if it has been destroyed.So there is quite a time now to drop such discussions, to get such things out of your head Mildred or it'll get you into serious trouble some day and there will be a rumour which will be getting about that some of our girlscouts most favoured are afraid that Gladelinia will be winning such a wicked cause.Why that is impossible.I'm almost sure why this flood came and if the enemy did it, it is because she seas shes losing and tries to make the war progressive by fouls means."

"Sometimes I wish we had never done it. that is gone in as scouts.I do wish we had never done it."Mildred murmured pitifully.

"I am ashamed of you Mildred."Gertrude said Coldly."You are worse than a small bably fretful and with its complaints laments and so forth.What has glandelinia been able to do so far in spite of som of her victories in battles?Nothing. Gladelinia has no certainity that there is even safty for her, and it certainly is not our business to carry or let a monsterous wrong be carried out againstour country.How many time have you and Jane talked this over and its always the same.You keep on trembling at shadows and mere nothing."

"I should not care if it was not for the nightGertrude. I am always dreaming that Glandelinian generals are coming to my bedside and that the whole of Glandelinia is looking sostern and angry, and yet there is no justice done against her."

"Bah Gertrude said contemptuosuly."You surely must eat less supper Mildred.If you were not such a "coward n you would not dream of such things.I have no naticence with your folly."

"I know it is foolish Gertrude, but I can't help it my nerves do not seem as strong as yours.I'm not afraid of the Glandelinians, but I'm worried how the cause will turn out.I think it was infamous that Glandelin is should have passed this big flood over Calverinia, and it is not to be expcted that Calverinia will be restored,and it is of course the duty of all us to aid in the discovery of sucha wickedplan of the enemy.Still I can't help being unhappy about it and ly awake at night and dreaming.No onecon help their dreams even if they do not come through."

"Your dreams are a mere repetition of your thoughts."Gertrude said scornfully."If you worry while you are awake you will worry while you are asleep.Abbieannis cannot lose and so drop that subject.And not of us will refuse to aid in the discovery of who was responsible for the Abbiean horror and so prevent such great wrongs done to our country in the future. To my mind the thing is simply or perfectly simple and for the cause my conscience wholly acquits me of any wrong doing."

"But what is the cother contents of the letter?"asked Angeline Richee."

"I'll read it right off.Left to herself Jennie says she took an earnest look round the room for somewhere no doubt within its limits lay the key of the secret that would bring disaster to the Glandelinian army concentrating at Evangeline St claire.where was it.In Federals headquarters where she went she

found that the walls of his headquarters were covered by book shelves though at the present there were o books.The bookshelves were handsomely carved and dark with age.Who had ever owned the place before had evidently been a book worm and had spared no pains and expanse in carrying out his hobby.One of the Glandelinian girlscouts said the books had been removed and carried away by the Glandelinians who had taken possession of the house.Jennie writes that there still might have been some secret spring that escaped so far her notice. At any rate she was determined to find it at any risk.She believed as she write that the spring laid among the carved work of the bookcases themselves/.

This she had gone over inch by ich.She writes that she knew that was the first work to be done.Even the male mantle and its supports were of rick richly carved wood work which too must be searched.In the first place however she had to carry out her work and laying aside determinedly all thought of the missing plans she had dusted and dnd swept. At the end of an hour, she continues to wirte write,, when she happened to turn round, she saw one of the Glandelinian officers standing in the doorway.She had not heard his footsteps and at once had decided in her mind that it would be necessary to be extrarrly careful in her search as at any moment any Glandelinian officer, and maybe a general, maybe Federal himself might look in upon her without warning.

The officer asked her if she was nearly finished, and Jennie answered that it would take her nearly two more hours at least to dust the woodwork properly and that she had already finished the carpet ad furniture..The officer then went away without making any remarks. Thinking that he nor any others were likely to appear for a few minutes Jennie writes she started to carry out one of her plans. She took from her pocket a ball of thin string one end of which was attatched to a tiny bradawl.Going into one corner of the room while straining the string tightly she tied a knot to mark the end of the length.Then she went back and crossed the room, and again made a knot to mark the width.Then she hastily gathered up the string pulled the bradawl from the woodwork and put them in her pocet.pocket. While she had been carrying out this, she writes, she retained a duster in one hand and dusted the woodwork as she moved along trusting that if a Glandelinian soldier or one of the officers should stop to look in the string which was of a dark varnish color would not be noticed by the soldiers.However she said she gave a sigh of relief when the operati nc operation was complete and the string, and the bradawl hidden away in her pocket.she then had continued her work untilll another hour and threese quarters had passed, and general Federal himself had appeared.

"I think that will do very well girlscout, you should know it is quite impossible to get all the dust out of the carving, and why he sd particular when I do not intend to remain here always anyhow.Ad besides She says he said it would take all day long to go overthe whole of it,and that she would need steps for the upper part."She wrote that the general gave an approving glance round as he noticed that the "new girlscout" had carefully placed every article- "reallly had not moved it" in the exact place in which she had found it.Jennie continued to write that she gathered up the brooms, and dusters and left the room, the Glande linian general carefullly looking the door behind her. Jennie wrote that her first plan therefore had saved her alot of trouble and that as soon as the next morning came she measured the rooms next to it.The discovered that a sort of passage ran along the side and that it was hardly possible that there could be anykind of hiding place there for she wrote that the wall was not thick enough for a hiding place of any size.She had decided that it must be at one end or the other or else under the floor..The following morning she had measured the dining room, and what was now used by Federal as his sleeping quarters but which in years gone by had been called the library, and then she wrote how she had slipped out doors, as soon as she came downstairs and the took the outside measurement of the side of the house,, marking on the string the position and width of each window.Ad too she had to be careful that none of the glandelinian soldiers did not see her. Then she had only to make a plan as she wrote and compare the figures and she found that between the back of a book case for she had taken out a few books to ascertain its depth- -and the paniel of the dining room there was a thickness of six feet, but between the dining room and Federals sleeping quarters there was fulilly twelnty twenty feet unaccounted for... And she wrote that in both were deep old fashioned fireplaces back to back and even allowing but twelve inches between these,, and the depth there would surely be accounted for but on ei ther side of the fire place there was a wide space.And she found no cupboards vi visible in any of the rooms not in the library for the bookcases extended from the fire places to the wall on each side.In the bedroom she wrote she had found cupboards on each side of the room, but these were not wide, and very shallow not being above nineteen inches in depth and therefore behind these w there was considerable space to be accounted for.Jennie wrote that it was evident to her that her first search was to lay in this locatility for here she knew

there really lay two chambers each thirteen feet wide by eighty feet long
Jannie long.Jannie wrote how her spirits rose at this new discovery, and how she sighed impatiently at the thought that another day must elapp before she could even commence the search, and she did not have a key to any of the rooms. She wrote that she had brooded over the matter continually, but nevertheless there was one point which had not and did not escape her.She writes that she knewthese old hiding places were made to either conceal secret enemies from the Glendelinians, or hunted child fugitives,and had been constructed with the greatest care.And she wrote that as she had so easily discovered the spot where any hidden room might be situated it would be discovered with the same ease by those who were on the search for the christian fugitives, and who would be naturally well acquainted with the positions where the hiding places would likely to be situated.She wrote that she knew the moment Glendelin ians persons would have looked into the cupboards.its shallowness would have surely suggested to them that there surely is a wide empty space behind it, and they would have therefore set to work with axes picks, crows crowbars, and musket butts and would soon discover by fore force the secret she had succeeded in discovering by stratagem.

She wrote that this reflectionconsiderably dampened her hopes; but she further wrote that she thought that possibly from this early discovered hiding place there might be some ass access much more difficult to trace to on t another 1 i lying below. At any rate she had been determined that if she did find the secret entrance to these these little rooms,, and found that they were empty she would not even then be disheartened but would continue her search untill she found either some secret closet where the stolen plans might be placed or an entrance to some serpents e perhaps luring hiding place belowshe wrote that her search on the ot outside showed her there existed several small iron gratings about six inches or more so long and four deep close down to the soilof the border.No doubt these were to give ventilation underneath the floors which were some three feet above the outside level but one of them also might afford ventilation to some underground chambers

She wrote on that about two days had therefore passed this way, ed on the occassion of each of her frequent visits to either of the rooms she devoted some time to the examination of the carved woodwork round the fire places, and also that of the book cases but without making any disco very whatever and it bec became evident to her that a far closer search would be needed than the short and hasty examinations that was all she dared to make, with the extremely dangerous possibility that at any moment a soldier or one of the Glendelinian officers would unexpectedly appear at the doors Accordingly she wrote q and sent a code to one of the christian officers in the christian army writing to him that it would be absolutely necessary for her to obtain a cake of very soft wax six inches long and two inches wide and asked him to procure it for her and sent it in a small wooden box to her by some secret messenger.She writes on that six hours later she had recieved the wax, and the next time the hour came for cleaning the rooms she quietly withdrew the keys from the doors as soon as she felt sure there were no Glendelinians around, laid each key on the wax and pressed them steadily on each piece of wax untill a deep impression was made upon the surface.Thenshe carefully examined the keys th to see that no particle of w x wax had stuck between the key wards, replace the keys in the doors, closed the lid of the little box in which each piece of wax lay, put it in her pocket and then set to her work of "cleaning." Upon this occassion she had not spent any time trying to find the hidden springs.For there was grave danger as always of the Glendelinianofficers or some of the soldiers coming, and as she would now have the means of entering the rooms at her own willl it would not be necessary to run any such risks . Then the next morning she asked for a day off to go to the half flooded city of Evangeline St Claire to secure some things for her"Company B"of which she was in need of, and though it tookscne "red tape" to get off the on the slight vacation and finally she succeeded.And when she reached the christian l n lines she called upon General Richardson Kindernine.

"Well how did you succeed."The general asked when the door had closed behind her."Or have you come to tell me you have given upon the search as hopeless?"

"Not at all."she replied with great decision."I told you in my letters that I have discovered the probable position of some of the hidingplaces and told you of the difficulties thereware in making a thoroughout search for it owing to the rooms always being kept locked.I have come now asking you general to get three keys mad ade from this"an d she produced the three pieces of wax."It would be suspicious if I were to go to a locksmith in the enemy camp and ask for such a thing he would think at once that I was a spy trying to get something in on the foe generals.But of course here I can get anything done.But also if thought if you did not let to get it done here for fear of spies

being within the Christian lines you might sent the wax up to the town and get the keys made there."

"This is becoming more and more serious Jannie"said general Kindernine very gravely."Being disc discharged as a Glendelinian scout, nothing more terrible could happen to you beyond being turnedout of the generals headquarters as long as you were only snooping among his things, but if you were discovered who you really are and of your intentions of working at night in the ro rewith false keys in yourposition you might be arrested first I suppose as an attempt of theft and be forced to clear yourself by being forced to explain before the C ourt Marshall who you were, and with what motive you were acting, which would cause you then to face the penalties of a spy and which would also render any assurance of your plan impossible, as might induce the offi e officers to destroy the plans if they really have it or have not already destroyed them."

"I am quite convinced they have not done that general.The anxiety they have about any one entering any of the rooms, and the manner a soldier or an officer o pops in so often to watch or see what I am doingis quite proof in my mind that the plans are there, and not destroyed, for if they had made away with them they would have no further anxiety on the subject.No, general I have thought it all over, and must run the risk for the sake of our countrys cause.There is no other way of making a complete search and in one night in either room by myself I could do far more than in a years visit at present.There are two or three more things I wish you could procure for me. I want a beggar boys cap and coat, very rough ragged ones, ad a little too large for me.You see if by any chance I be se met by any of the soldiers or an officer going down or upstairs, or returning to my room, I must give them asturt,and too, dressed up like that, and with a piece of crape over my face I should be taken for a beggar boy.I know some of the enemy soldiers are easily frightened frightened by seeing only a beggar in the house but at the same time I fancy I might alarm them into returning to their room and should be able to get back to mine before the house was aroun aroused.I shall always also unfasten a window on the ground floor a lit lift it a little so that it would be supposed that the intruder escaped that way."

General General Kindernine smiled a little and then said;"It is a very risky business Jannie.Glendelinianofficers and soldiers are always armed to the teeth ,and are crackshots too you know."

"So am I.And we must risk something when one is fighting for a Holy cause." Jannie said quietly."Of course I hope and will pray that I will not be heard. There are always cracklings and noises in an old house like that, and peculiar people would think Ghosts walked the place at night from the sounds I have heard.However the doors are thick, and will fitting and there is little chance of my footsteps being heard as my shoes are noiselessss.It can in only by accident such as the sentry being on duty, or of on one of the officers not being able to sleep and getting up and walking over the houses, that they are likely to run against me,and it is not probable that he would have a pistol in his hand then.No I do not think there is the least fear of anything of that sort.The only fear I have is of being detected o in some other way before I have succeeded in doing what I am making aneffort for and now the risk of that grows less and less every day." I have been there for over two days now and am perfectly at home and do not fear I'll be detected.I was afraid of a sudden meeting with the chief Glendelinian boyscouts Gerald Starling, Fredrick Darger and James Scanlion and others or of Manley who can recognise those of his personal enemies despite their disguise by their way of walking and holding ones self but that has passed away now,as they are not seen in Federals army.I encountered the two boyscouts before I entered the Glendelinian camp but he did not recognise me, or he didn't pay any attention to me, only gave he a slight how and passed on .Many of my friends have prayed me to give up what they call my mad brained attempt and anything it made them afraid.No I am not in the least bit anxious about myself."Then Jannie writes,"I told Kindernine however that I cannot say as much about you Gertrude and your crows and wish you could get through the flood and get here.I think more of that now than I do of myplans and if I had known that it would take you so long to get through, I would not have begun this search untill I would have found some opening to bring you through safely.What use to would it be for me if something happened to all of you.The Vivian Girls are not yet here, though I heard Jack Evans found them.Kindernine has tried to persuade me to give up carrying out myplans for he cannot altogether approve of them, but he could not, and he has and did do all in his power to help me and I got the keys very shortly.He asked me how he should sent them over and I told him to make it appear as if I wanted a new uniform I have ordered one and some other things near the for camp.The uniform is already forthcoming and would be ready by the time I get back.I have told the Glendelinian quarter master sergeant there were

or will 'e four other packages or so which is t he put in the box with the uni uniform and sent it to me.I have ordered also a pair of butt boots and two other things and told him not to close the box untill the others arived by which time all the other things I have ordered will be sent in to him.I asked Kinderning to be sure to have the keys before that and he said it would be so for I certainly dare deserve success for as I seemed to provide for every contingency. "Jennie further wrote that as soon as she had recieved the box she had set to work in earnest.As soon as the house was stillll and the proper time had elapsed for the glandelinians except the sentires to fall asleep, she rose from the bed on which she had laid hersel f without taking off her clothes, put on the coat and the cappp and made her way without making the slightest noise down to thelibrary first.

As she kept that lock well oiled she was able to enter without making any noise, and then locking the dooor behind her /I lighteda candle and started her search. th that night she w writes she was finally rewarded by finding that the center of what looked like a solidly carved human form of a child in the ornamation of the mantle piece,, gave way under the pressure of a stick,and at the same timeshe believed she had heard a slight click. Beyond this she wrote nothing was apparent, and after trying everything within reach for an hour or so she ca e came to the conclusion that it needed a second spring to be touched to reveal the entrance.

She wrote it took her another hour before she found this.It was a slight projection, aboutas large as a button, and it was inside a cupboard where she least suspected it to be.Pressing this and the other spring simultaneously the book case on the right of the mantlepiece near the fire place suddenly swung open three or four inches.She wrote that for a moment at this discovery she stoooed breathless with excitement, and she had hesitated before she entered, then she swung the bookcase open.There indeed as she had expected was a room thirteen feet long and seven feet wide, but to her bitter disappoint ment, it apppeared bare and empty and smelled damp and mouldy. A few scraps of paper lay on the floour but there was no furniture chest or boxes in the room. The revulsion was so great Jennie wrote that she had returned into the library threw herself into a chair, and had a long cry . Then she went back to the room and carefulllly carefully examined the pieces of paper lying on the ground. One ofthem was a portion of a letter and she recognized at on e once the handwriting of emperor vivian, and wondered how this letter got here.

It however as she stated contained only these words!!

"My dear Father------Emperor Vivian----In accordance with your request I send you the -----"" "but above was the date,,, which was thirty days an anterior to the disappearance of the plans. Jennie wrote that she had no doubt that the word s that should have followed the fragment was "Plans" and that this was the letter one of the Vivian Girl Princesses had sent over with that document.It therefore was important evidence that the plans had been stolen by the enemy spies or agents, ad also it showed that one of the Princesses had been in the habit of writing letters to their father.The enemy spi e may have placed the plans in there, and where that place was she did not know,,, but she felt certain that it was somewhere within reach of her hand.

"She was sure it was there,, ad and that it could be easily, found,, and she was determined to continue looking for it that night unt 11 untill she found it.She wrote she looked at the clock and discovered it was only nine oclock and therefore she decided to thin k the matter over before she reseu resumed the search .And that it was something to have found out as much as she did and therefore was encouraged instead of being disappointed.

Indeed Jennie wrote a good detail to Gertrude giving her a fulll acount of the discovery she had made, and had inclosed the fragment of the letter she had found. he renewed her search for two hours without a pause and her long watchfulness and her excitement did not seem to tell on her even though she felt she needed rest but this might be the only opportunity and thereforeshe mu t must try and find it.Ge trude as she cont in ued the reading of the letter felt that she could congratulate Jennie most hear heartily upon the success she had so far met with.Gertrude owned to herself that she had never been very hopeful for after the throughout search she states she had made of Federals rooms she hardly thought it likely thatshe would have said in the letter that she would have succeeded, however Jennie wrote she had advanced so far and so Gertrude could not doubt that success would crown her efforts and she read eq eagerly now.And anyway in a small bare room such as Jennie described the difficulties in the way of findin finding the hidden springs could not be so great as those she had already overcome.And Gertrude felt sure Jennie was perfectly correct in her expectation that the fragment she sent her was part of the letter that Violet sent to her father with the plans. Gertrude sknew it was Violets, as sheknew her handwriting.This proved conclusively that

Gertrude had compared it with a copy in her own letter book and foun d that it was indeede Violets handwriting.And again the letter proved conclusively that the spies were in the secret room in m Emperor Vivians headquarters during the strange and sudden disappearance of Violet, and her sisters and therefore one can assign no reason for their disappearance unless they were captured while in the act of putting the plans away in what they had considered a secure hiding place.Jennie therefore had written that she now was sure it was in general Federals headquarters, that she had no doubt whatever and therefore she wrote of how she continued the search.

Jennie continued that thinking the matter over she had come to the conclusion that the hiding place could only be under one of the stone flags of the floouor or in the wallll against the fireplace or in that part above the fireplace.She believed there would not be thickness enough in the wallls seperating the secret chamber from the passage or the rooms on either side of it but the chumney would not be of the same width as the open fire place below and therefore there ought to be a space there sufficient for a good sized hiding place or closet.She w ote it was here she searched with determination and after touching the springs and entering the secret chamber she had began carefully to examine each stone in the wall next to the fire place at a distance of about five feet above the ground. She wrote how after five minutes she had made an exclammation of satisfaction for one of the stones about twenty inches square although like the rest fitting closely to those adjoining it was not like the others e embedded in cement or morater.However she wrote that so close was the join that it needed a close inspection to see that it was different from all those around it.Still upon close examination it was fully evident that it was not cemented in and therefore she took out a penknife from her pocket and finally found that the joint was even too close to allow the blade to be inserted for any distance.And besides there was no keyhole or any other means of opening it and she had searched the walls in vain for any hidden spring. Then she wrote how during the whole night till three oclock she had continued the search but without the slightest success, and at last began to almost despair for at the end of that time she was almost convinced that she had passed her fingers again and again over every square in h inch of the floor and walls within her reach.Completely worn out from lack of sleep she determined therefore to take a little rest and to abstain altogether for at least two nights from the search.On the third night however an idea suddenly occured to her.She rose at once dressed herself to continue her search through her plan. She had determined to be more cautious than ever in her operations for she thought it probable that general Federal would be more wakeful and suspicio suspicious than before since the christian army was concentrating so heavily against him.She would have left the search alone for a few days had it not been for the idea that had taken her from her bed.It had struck her then as possible that the spring opening the secret closet might be in the chimney behid it and that it was necessary to touch this from the outside before opening the door of the sect secret room.And she wrote that she had been fully convinced that had there been a spring in the room itself she must have discovered it but it never before stf struck her that it might be at the back of the closet.She therefore felt that she must satisfy herself on this po nt point at whatever the risk of discovery.She had put the key in the dooor she wrotecand was in the act of turning it when she heard a noise upstairs.She opened the door and stood looking up the stairs.In a momnt she saw a light and directly afterwards one of the glandelinian sentries appearing at the top and a boyscout following him holding a lighted candle in his hand.JKno ing Knowing she was yet unseen Jenniec said she entered Federals room and closed and locked the dooor behind her.She sh then hurried to the fire place touched the two p springs pulled the book case open and entered the secret chamber and closed the book case behi d behind her.She had often examined the lock thinking that the secret pe spring of the closet might be concealed there.It was a large old fashioned one, and moved four bolts two at the top of the door, and two at the bottom.

Theseashe had already discovered,,,,,,, could be easily opened from the insideShe She wrote that she had imaned that the glandelinian sentry and the boy with him were merel y going round the house to see that all was s secure, and she had contrary to her practise taken the key from the dor of Federals roomin order that the guard and others might enter if they chose.But the thought now flashed acrosss her that probabl y the guard might intend to open the secret room in order to see that all was secure and the plans were notmissing, ad to prevent this she now pressed the pistol barrel she carrid in between the back o back of the bolts and the piece of iron

arraginst it which it shot, so that therefore the actions of the secret springs could not throw it out of its place . She wrote that she was breathless as she listened for the slightest so sounds. Presently she heard a sharp click in the wall behind her and she drew her other revolver in case she would need it for to save herself she would not in the least hesitate to shoot any Glandelinian. She wrote that she had scarcely time to ponder when she heard a sound in the lock close to her and simultaneously felt a slight tremor of the door as if someone was either trying to shake it or open it. Her heart almost stood still.The Glandelinian guard was evidently trying to open the door of the chamber, and though she knew the lock could not open so long as she held the pistol in the place she nevertheless felt her breath coming fast and her heart beating loudly. For fifteen minutes the attempts to open the door had continued. Then all was still again.Then she wrote that for over half an hour she had remained without moving, then as all contin ued quiet she guessed that the Glandelin a Glandelinian guard finding the springs did not act had returned to his own post.

Jennie now rose to her feet drew out her dark lantren which she had concealed about her person and turned it on the wall to her side.Then she wrote further on, how she gave an exclamanation of joy-d for the stone that she had so vainly makde made efforts to move was swung openopen.The guard who of course had the secret had touched the s r ing outside before attempting to open the chamber, and the stone which was set in iron had swung opn open one hinge..In a moment Jennie wrote how she had explored the contents and found that the closet was about three feet square the same in depth and contained four shelves.The e were several papers in it, and the very first upon which she laced her hand was marked "Plans written by us Violet, and her sisters."

So overwhelmed was Jennie according to what she wrote at this termination to her long and desperate search that she sank to the ground and that it was some time before she could collect herself sufficiently to consider what was her best course.It was evident that for some reason the guard had been about to visit the secret room to see that the capturedplans was still in safty.The failure of the springs to act had of course disconcerted her or him but he or an officer might be suspicious that the springs did not work and would try again in the morning, and would if succeeding in openin g the door discover that the will was missing. Of course every o ne who had been within the building would be s arched, and Jennie knew it was the best course to make off at once.She remembered now that she had noticed a tiny hole no bigger than a nail hole in the door, and had found that upon the other side it was just above a row of books in the shelves show somewhat lower in height then the rest and was evidently intended to enable the occupant of the chamber to obtain a view of the bedroom, and to see whether that room was occupied.She applid her eye to it at once,and saw that all was dark. Concealing the lantren again beneath her coat she drew back the bolts gently and stepped out.Then she went to one of the windows, carefully raised the sash, and stepped out.There were no sentin sentries within sight here, and therefore she got out of the camp sped across the meadows, down a drive, and then hurried at the top of her speed tward the christian lines reaching it safely.she then wrote that she had gne about half the distance and was within sight of the guard line when she heard the approach of a few horses.The road ran between a line of high pine trees but there was no place for concealment and therefore she would have to use her guns good and plenty if it was an enemy patrol. She wrote that she continued to walk along by the edge of the road close to the trees on the opposite side hoping that the horsemen would pass by without noticing her unless they were of her own side and then she would not need to worry so much even if they did take her pres prisoner.She could explain in camp..The eyes of the patrol leader however were too much accustomed to the darkness, for he reined in his horse, ordered "halt" to his thirty men, ad a moment later had flashed a light from a pocket glare light into her face.

She wrote he had questioned her, asking who she was, and where she was going..She wrote that she saw by the light that he was the leader of a mounted patrol squadron of Winkie Abyssinkilians.She answered that she was going to the christian lines, and gave her name and so forth, but as she was dis uised like a ragged boy he was suspicious, would not believe her, said that there was something wrong, ad leaning down he tried to catch her by the collar but she had nimbly eluded him and ket her distance.She told him it was quite true, that she had been in the foe camp a spying, and that she was going to Emperor Vivians lines in a on a question of lif e life and death.She told him that he could take her to the first christian general they met and if when he got there he found her story not true he could lock her up if he liked. She wrote the patrul leader was puzzled, for he realized the voice was

that of a little girl,, and yet her attire, and her presence abroad and from the direction of the enemys lines at three oclock in the morning was suspicious in the extreme. He paused for he was doubtful, and he too said he did not like to disturbe Emperor Vivian, or any of the christian generals at this time of night, ad he insisted of taking her to a detention tent and bring her before him in the morning, but knowing that she must see to it in person that the plans are delivered saftly in his hands, she had told him that if he does, ad she can prove her identification, Emperor Vivian willmake it hot for him, for she said I'm Miss Jennie Gurner eleven year old girl spy and you should know by now when I have even unveiled myself you you can see my face.If you still doubt me I can promise you Emperor vivianor any general will not be angry at being called up instead he would be greatly pleased .she promised him a three fold pence if he took her before Emperor Vivian. The man said that therefore if she was sure the Emperor would not be angry at being calledup at such an hur, he would take her, but he told her that she sou should know he is a powerful King, and with his fair and brave saintly daughters missing so mysteriously and being agrieved over it, and wordd, it would never do for any one now to play any tricks upon him.She told him there were no tricks, that the Emperor knew her very well, and would bepleased exce dibly to see her even at this hour...

The patrol leader was greatly puzzled over the whole proceeding but he ordered her to follow and the rest turned and placinging her between him and in front of themselves he went ahead.

Then Jennie wrote further on that she told the patrol that they really need not be so close to her for if they were Glandelinian and she reallly wanted to get away she could have done so in a moment for she had a machine gun like pistol in each of her hoslters and could have shot them all down the moment x she had desired to do so without their having a chance to even fire one shot.They were somewhat startled at this information, and they fell back a little fully satisfied however that their prisoner not being on horseback could not escape by speed.Therefore too as a measure of precution the leader made her walk a pace or two ahead of th e patrol and kept the light of his flasher upon her while he cautiously held apistol ready for action in his hand in case she really was a foe ad not who she said she was, ad might suddenly turn upon him.They went through the lower portions of the positions and then up the hill untill they reached the camp on Marias heights and five minutes afterwards entered the gate of Emperor Hanson Vivians Headquardters. On reaching the door Jennie revealed herself to the guard who told her to stay there while he rang the bell.Then she wrote that a moment later a window above opened, and she heard Emperor vivian ask who it was, and whether he was wanted anywhere, whether the enemy was moving, but the man said he was the patrol and that he was sure he had met a suspicious girlscout on the road, that she was coming to him, that he knew her, and that thought it did seem a likely sort of story he thought it better to run the risk of disturbing him instead of taking her to the detention camp for investigation.She wrote that she explained to the Emperor who she was, having taking off her cap and stepp ing out so the light of the patrols flasher fell upon her.She told him that she had got theplans, and to let her in as she was Jennie Gurner Emperor Vivian had said "Good Heavens" for he had been startledout of his usual tran quility, and then he said to the patrol leader that it was all right, and that hewould be done in a minute.Then she had said to the patrol that he should now understand she had spoken the truth, and taking her purse from her pocket she had taken by the help of the light two goldpiev pieces and handed them tward the man who said he did not want to take her money, and said that he hoped she would excuse him for not beldving her for it had seemed suspicious. he had answered that he had been quite right for the circumstances were quite suspicious and that he had only done his duty. She told him he and his men had they been Glandelinians might have made it very unpleasant for her if they had chosen to take her back to the Glandelinian camp, and as he had done as she asked she was very willing to give him what she had promised for she could afford it very well as it would be useful for him.She stated the man therefore took the money and touched his hat, and sait quiet untill th d the door opened and the Emperor himself in a dressing gorn gown and holding a candle appeared, and informed the patrol leader that he had done perfectly right in bringing the girl to him but advised him not to go t talking about it throughout the camp, and the christian position. The man aswered that he would not say anything about it, and saying good night to both Him ad t Jennie went off.Emperor vivian Jennie wrote asked her what caused her to come at this late hour of night, and wanted to know whether she had secured it.That it was possible she had found the missing plans.' Jennie

answered that it had been quite possible, and showed him the envelope with the se l seals of course broken. Jennie wrote further that the Emperor said Jennie astounded him.At this moment one of the girlscouts taking care of Angeline Vivian made her appearance at the top of the stairs, a boyscout having briefly said as he hurried out of the room that it was just Jennie Turner returning from a spying trip.Jennie was brought to Angelines room so she wrote and Jennie continues that the Emperor called "Angeline dear" here is your friend Jennie Turner.And what do you think.She had brought the missing plans with her.

With an exclamenation Angeline Jennie says, and others threw their arms round Jennie saying "You dear brave creature I have been longing to speak to you for the last six months.It seems so unatural you being so close to us my lying so long in this bed.and not being able to see you!and you have really found the plans that were stolen since my sisters disappeared!I can hardly believe it.How has it all come about!"

"Don't bother her too much "Jennie wrote Emperor vivian said it; for now that the excitement had passed Jennie had been trembling all over, and was scarcely able to keep her feet.He told his daughter she was overtired and over excited, and then told his orderly to take her straight up to the spare room and get her quickly to bed that he would make her a tumbler of hot port wine and water.For the water was sure to be w arm in the kitchen and a stick or two would make it boil by the time she was ready for it.He said that he would rather hear about it in the morning for now the plans were safe,, that news had come that Violet and her other sisters were closer with Evans that this wawas quite enough for them to night, for all the rest would keep very well for the morrow. Jennie wrote that she was put to bed in a few minutes and after drinking the tumbler of hot negus that had been prepared for her she was soon asleep.A girl scout then came into the room early in the morning, ad told Jennie that the Princess Angeline said that Jennie was not to think of getting up unless she felt quite equal to it, that she agreed with Angelina, and said that if she liked she would bring breakfast upto her and then you the then she could go off to sleep again for a bit.But Jennie was perfectly ready to get up and said she c u could not think for a moment when she first opened her eyes where she had got to, and fancied she had overslept herself and should get a nice scolding from the foe generals.Jennie was told that she must wear one of Angelines dresses, for she had done with the dirty ragged clothes for good.The girlscout Jennie wrote brought one in a minutes. and in half an hour she came down in a pretty morning dress of Angeline's.Littlev.Jennie who had been kept in the building Jennie wrote had also made her appearance in the breakfast room, but she had started at the entry of a stranger, and Jenie Jennie had asked her holding out her hand"Why Jennie dear, don't you kn ow me."Why, why"finally Jennie had gasped"Why its Miss Jennie Turner.Why when did you come back, and a what have you been doing to yourself?Why your face has been dirtied and changed and your once golden hair is intense black.What does it all mean girls!"she had asked the girlscouts in bewilderment.Jennie said that the girlscouts told Jennie that she came in last night, after all were in bed, and when Jennie said, no one had told her, they answered that they did not know it themselves, for she had arrived very unexpectedly.Jennie wanted to know why she had discolored her hair, and wanted to know whether there was anything the matter, especially for coming back without being expected, and that she was now wearing one of Angelines dresses and had dyed her hair and looked so different altogether.Then she had asked finally whether Jennie had heard anything further about Angelines six sisters, and of Evans.Jennie had answered that every one would soon hear of it presently, ad emperor Vivian verified it telling all the girlscouts and Jennie too that they all owed a great depth of gratitude to Miss turner as they all would hear very presently for she has for six days been working in the interest of the lost articles orelans and for Violet, ad her sisters in particler.Then he told Jennie not to open her eyes so wide but to sit down at the table and then after they had breakfast Jennie would then tell all about it.Then Emperor vivian Jenie wrote asked her if she had heard the news, and when she asked what news, the emperor said that his scouts brought in a despatch from general Greatheart saying that he had news that a l large portion ofwFederals army was advancing and that emperor Vivian had just issued orders to all the troops to march forward to the support of Kindernine who was likely to be first attacked. Jennie said she had heard nothing about it, and that she had felt suddenly greater. Jennie wrote that therefore she feard feared there was sooner or later going to be a battle, and the whole christian line would soon be engaged.Emperor Vivian told her she must not get alarmed over more news, for he said most of the troops were widly scattered, and Kindernines troops was the only nearest, that the troops she feared of may not be up in

time, and besides you see Kindernine was the first likely to be attacked, and he may beat the Glandelinians before even any other portion of the christian army would be needed to get up in line of battle.Then emperor vivian when they had all finished breakfast asked her to takepity on them all and tell them all about her success All wished however to o go outside into the garden and sit in the chairs under the trees for they felt sure it was going to be a long story and that it would be delightful out there, and al so Emprer vivian could smoke his after breakfast cigar.The chairs were taken out in to the shede of the trees and the party sat down, Jennie especially all excited for as yet she knew nothing of what had a happened and was pux puzzling herself in vain as to how Miss Turner could have been working in the interest of them al l. Jennie wrote that she had asked Jennie whether she knew why violet and her sisters had been carrindcawwy by the Glandelinians, and at this question the l ittle girl had opened her eyes wide in surpr se.Jennie answered she thought they were kidnapped because they spied on the enemy and Jennie said that it may have been for that one particularpurpose, but for something else too.They were captured so the Glandelinians could gtpossession of the plans.Jennie thought Miss Turner was joking for she could not understand the reason why the f e had foe had run off with Violet, and her sisters.Ad besides not till before had Jennie even knew that Jennie turner had been in the christian lines.Jennie told her she had been there but so often in disguise that no one had known her.Then Jennie told her of her long stay in the Glandelinian camps.Jennie was astonished, and wanted to know what she did ih in the foe camps and why she was staying.Ad Jennie wrote that she told Jennie that it was just the story she was going to hear.that she had heard that Emperor Vivian by the aid of his daughters had made plans to get general Federals army caught on bad ground and be fored to assault him to ead escape.Jennie answered she had seen the plans made, then sheknew the plans and violet, and her sisters were missing and that no one could find them.Jennie told her she herself had believed the plans could be found and therefore was not willing to let the matter rest as the chance of finding it was remote.Emperor vivian said to Jennie that she had remembered he sospoke to her about the plans when some strange boyscout offered her a bank note of IO!000 or ten thousand dollars if she would reveal them and she had refused.Jennie remembered that very well, and told Jennie that the enemy had always kept her out of her rights, and that is why she had refused the brid bribe.Ad therefore she would have betrayed the boy had not not gone sooner.. Emperor vivien then went on that at that time the chance of their ever hearing of theplans was so remote that he had entirely given up hope and had never taken any more steps in the matter but had altered the plans by making a new p one. Fortunately Jennie turner possessed a great deal more energy and perserveran e then even a man has, and whenshe had found that every one h else had given it up she had taken the matter into her own hands. Then he asked Jenie as she wrote to tell it all telling others to listenquietly and not to ask more questions than they could help till she was finished.Then Jennie told as she wrote how when in emperor vivians headquarters she first did everything in her own power to find the missing plans, but how she had not been able to do so, and as violet, and her sisters had disappeared at the same time the plans had, she had been suspicious and had thought to undertake the search in the enemys lines herself.Then she wrote of how she had related word by word the measures she had taken to obtain a situation as a girlscout ser ant in eral Federals headquarters and then went on to tell the manar manner in which she had carried on the search and how she had finally succeeded her story being frequently interrupted by exclamanations and questions from her hearers.

Emperor vivien then asked her what she had meant to do next and Jennie had decided to place the plans in An Angelinesposi possession for she should not feel comfortable otherwise and directly after she had done that she would go directly up to Maria's heights hoping to get there before any great battle was fought for she should like to see general Kindernin e if possible. Jennie wrote she hadintended to ask general Daragr if he could spare time to go across the creek to Maria's heights.she would not want him to stop there, only to take her there and that she believed there would not be any difficulty to getting a small raft to go across the Evangeline St Claire flood region to take her to m Maria's heights.If Dargar could not spare time he could sent none of his men with her or get someone who would take her in charge but that at any rate she would intend to go by herself if necessary. Then Jennie at that moment finished the letter by writing that as she was preparing to go a patrol scout came in and reported that half an hour ago a man rode into into the lin es with word that Jack Evans with the Vivien Girls and IO! IO,000 children he had rescued from the foes lines was close

to the christian lines but was waiting untill he could get safely between the foe and the flood and also a forest fire was pursuing him.However justice must be done and that it was hoped Evans would soon arive.

After having read the whole letter through, and stating of Jennie's unusual success Gertrude prepared to take her evening sleep for she had intentions of doing some patrol duty of her own that night.Jean who had returned from the refugee camp alone having left Jack there till morning, when she would come back to him had just finished her rounds after taps, when she thought she heard a noise at the left endof the huge raft.She returned at once to her tent took out her brace of pistols and again went outside and listened.Yes she had not been mistaken she distinctly heard strange sounds beyond on the left portion of the raft, and she thought the murmur of mens voices which sounded strange to her.After a moments thought she again returned to her tent believing they were Abyssinkilian soldiers only playing a late game when someone suddenly but gently knocked at the door of her tent.who ever it was repeated the knock three or four times, and then Jean asked who was there.The party did not speak but knocked again.

"Who's there?"called Jean.

"It's me Hettie Kornmann Jean.Open."

The door was unlocked unlocked and opened.

"What is it Hettie."?

"There seems to be suspicious characters on board the raft, Jean, I can hear them moving about on the right of the raft, and I think I heard mens voices and they seemed to be swearing, much l unlike our own men."

Jean came out and listened.

"Yes there is some one there"she said."Go and call Gertrude, and som of the boy scouts.I shall be ready by the time you come back."

In two or three minutes ten boy scouts, headed by Gertrude came to Jeans tent.she came out to meet them having two of her pistols in her hand.Several girls also came and had armed themselves with their small rifles.

"Have you looked to the priming of your rifle "Gertrude asked of a boy known as Fred.

"No Miss Aronburg.I forgot ."

"Well then for the love of heaven look n ow." she said very angrily."what's the use of having a weapon if you don't see that its in order."

"It's all right Miss Aronburg."the boy said after he had examining the priming.

"Well then, all of you come along, and do not make the slightest noise."

That They all went forward without making the slightest sound,, and passed when they were within hearing of the right section of the raft.The sounds came from some large tent.Gertrude Angeline led the way to the door, threw it open and six men were seen in the act of packing up some of the tent equipage.As the door of the tent was flung open the men started up with an exclamationsGertrude fired, an dthere was a cry of pain.A moment later there was a roar as Feds rifle went off the contents l odging in the he head of one of the men and he fell dead.Without hesitating for a moment all of the men except one made a rush to the rear opening of the tent, leaped into the water and were swimming forward when they were fired on.Two were seen in sink, but the rest continued on. At this moment a number of other scouts boys and girls, and even one of the Abyssinkilians came up.

"What's the matter Gertrude?"Angeline Jennings asked."We heard firing from the raft.K?"

"It's nothing Angeline.Some Glandelinian spies or raiders were on board the raft and we have shot a few of them and killed this one in the tent.I did not think it was worth while of arousing the whole crew, but its all over now, and the others are closing up the tent again .I will tell you about it in the morning.Everybody get back to your tents and into your bunks."

Directly that Gertrude had gone back to her tent a hubbub of talk burst out from some of the other girls.

"It's disgraceful John."How could those Glandelinians have gotten on board our raft.Some sentry was not watching his business."

"Probably they got past the sentry by their disguises as you saw they were purple."said John.One of them flung a hand grenade at me and struck away by rifle as I was going to level it."

"Got past the sentrys."One of the girls said scornfully."Then he was not on his guard.I am surprised that with girls and boys as we are, and should be known by the enemy as we usually are as "Hawks"that the foe should get aboard us without being seen.That would seem to show that those skunks have twoty times the shrewdness and curage as we have.Luckily we shot straight for about four of them were killed.Oh we seem to be pitiful creatures after all."

"A lot of use then we seem to be"Another girl re torted.To allow spies or Glandelinian thieves to get on board our rafts.Allow men to rob us children."

"Yes that seems embrassing don't it"another again said.Gertrude was just as cool as if she had been eating her brens breakfast, and Fed he lodged his shot into the heads of one of the scoundrel."

"Heads!"

"No I mean he ad.I forgot what I said."

Fed had by this time gone back to his tent, and the others beginning to feel too warm out here posponed their discussion of the affair untilll the following morning.The next morning therefore and before breakfast all the girlscouts and the officers too, including boys and men were all called in the large consultation room of the raft and Gertrude, Angeline Riches, and Jean ine interrogated them closely as to whether any of them had seen strange men about the evening before, or had been questioned by anyone they knew as to military values on the raft, and also why it was the men had succeeded in fooling or getting past the sentries.

"If it had not been for Hettie"Jean saidwhen she has finished without being able to obtain any information, the raft would have been robbed of our possessions, and not any of us would have been the wiser.Those men were literally robbing us of our provisions.Investigation showed that.It was most fortuna e that ash as she said she happened to be awake and heard the sounds, an she acted very properly in coming quietly to arouse me.If we had been quicker the results would have been very different and we would have got them of them.I shall now make arrangement for more guards to be on duty in the future, and bells secret bells shall be fixed at many parts of our raft railing. Then when Mildred came for duty had made her a little late, Gertrude informed her of what had taken place the night before.

"Gertrude then said it;

"I shall telegraph of course to Jennie Turner, and shall send on e of my best scouts ashore to investigate about it, but I have very little hopes that he will discover anything Mildred!"

"Why do you think that, Gertrude.You said you were convinced you had killled three of the men and Fed one, and wounded another, so christian spies ought to be able to trace the wounded one who escaped."

"I would dare say they would if this had been an ordinary theft, but I and many of the others am convinced that it was not."

"Not an ordinary theft!How do you make that out.?"

"I have no doubt in my mind Mildred, that it was an attempt to rob me of the letters sent my by Jennie.For one of them is missing."

"Do you think so "!Mildred said in an awed voice."That is terrible.But you said the men were engaged in packing up food and other provisions of our own."

"Oh I believe that was a mere makeout for they mayby would fish us to believe they were provision vandals, and therefore acted as such to begin their work with.But othwr otherwise there has never been any attempt on the raft since we started our journey on it.Why should there be now!If Hettie had not fortunately heard those men and first told Jean who summoned me I believe that when they had packed a few things to give the idea they were food vandals, they would have sneaked into my tent, and finding me asleep, set to ransack it and find the letters."

"But they would never have found the letters, Gertrude.They are too well hidden for that."

"There is no knowing Gertrude said gloomily."So long as these important letters are in existance we shall never feel comfortable.It will be much better to destroy them."

"No, no,"Mildred exci exclaimed."We agreed Mil Gertrude that no one could find them but that is altogether a different thing from destroying them unless we absolutely have to.And besides with so many spies round andthe way we are, in and as we have no news from elsewhere, I firmly believe the war is lost now.If it comes true I should never feel happy again.But I'm firmly believed that glandelinia has already won."

"As for that"Gertrude said somewhat scorne scornfully"You don't seem very happy happy now.You are always fretting and fidgeting of whether we are going to win or whether Glandelinia is going to be the conquerer."

"It is not I who am fancying these things."Mildred answered in an aggrieved voice."Others think so too, and are more sure of it then I."

"No that is the way with timid people."Gertrude said."They are often afraid of their very shadows, and see no danger where danger really exists.At any rate whether you are right about our losing the war or not I am determined to see wh[illegible] or not.I believe I should [illegible]

to xsee whether the letters are safe or not.But I shall take them out of their hiding place and hide them in the matress of by cot.We all know they will be safe there at any rate as long as we retain the possession of the raft, though I think it is wiser to destroy them."

"No, no"Mildred exclaimed anything but that now.But then its your own anyway and if you must you must.I sleep badly now badly enough now, and am always dreaming that Glandelinia has already won the war already.I should never dare sleep if I knew the enemy got hold of those letters."

"I have no patience with such childish fancies as I have told you over and over again."Gertrude said sharply."If I am ready to take the risk of doing it I do not see that you need to fret at all about it.However I am ready to give in to your prejudicies and in dead would rather not destroy them myself if th they can be saftly kept elsewher.At any rat any tate I shall remove them from their hiding place.We know where they are and that it cannot be searched for, and with it in my p mattress they will not be any cause for uneasiness.I can unsew the straw mat tress and when the letters are saftly in there we shall have no fear whatever."

"Of course you can do as you like Gertrude."Mildred said feeblyp "But for my part I would rather as much go on as we are.We don't know whether our very country reallly exists now with all this flood and forest fires and I would much rather go on thinking that there is a doubt about the whole situation."

"Very well then go on so Mildred.You need ask no questions of me, and I shall tell you nothing.Only remember if I am killed or the raft is sunk with all of us on board don't allow the mattress to go floating away without getting out those letters."

A

CHAPTER THIRTY TWO.....
ONE D Y DAY MORE IN THE REFUGEE CAMP.....
ACCORDING TO JACK THE WAR IS GROWING DESPERATE.
WOUNDED BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS.
OTHER DOINGS.
NEWS OF GENE GENERAL FEDERALS ADVANCE AND WHAT COMES OF IT.

IN the meantime Jack had already known this refugee camp so close on the shores of the big flood..It was here that several experiences of the boy gave him some education on the sorrows and horrors of the great war. He however hardly knew any one here even though nothing was altered, and too it was the first time he had ever been in a refugee camp. And here he only found a few people whom he had ever known before..That morning after he had risen from the bed in the little girls home he went on inspection of the camp " mechanically.Then he went to the information Bureau where s m sometimes news could be obtained but there was nothing new to be heard, but still he found a musical instrument to play on.The camp to prevent a surprise from raiding Glandelinians who have no respect or sympathy for refugees was surrounded by high barbed wired fences.Strangers who come and wish to see any one in the camp had to show passes or no one could get through, not even with "good terms" with the guards as it is called. Between the jumpers and the birch trees closest to the waters were many children of the refugees, unconscious of what was really going on, were playing near the waters.However it was bearable if one couldexpect nothing better.They were too young and seemed not to know what all the water was there for...

Jack went to the shore and laid down to take a rest.Lookedat so closely he saw the find black ground was evidently composed of millions of the smallest pieces of stone as clear as if they had been made in a laboratory, and to him it was strangely inviting to dig his hands into it, and take up a handful and look it over.

But to him most beautiful indeed were the distant woods with their walls of fir and other pine trees and their hues changing with every minute was most fantastic.Now the green gleme darkest hue, andthe next mom movement as the breeze pass down from the heights everything seemed to sway like waves.It appeared as if it was autum instead of August.

Jack had become so lost in the play of soft fire light in the dist n distance and strange transparent shadow that moved like a ghost through the dim trunks and passing over the flood that he almost failed to know where he was or what he was doing.It seemed also to him as if he was beginning to observe nature and to love her for here he seemed not to have much compenionship, and did not even desire it.

So long had Jack seen all the horrors of the war that he began to feel that he was a little too far from be being acquainted with Nature.He too felt the same now like Mildred, that any hope of success for his country was as heavy to easy to gain as if it could never win.The whole refugee camp was seperated from the outside by a bob wired fence, and through gates and openings Jackwas able to go to any point and he saw how badly off every one fared.Many seemed nervous and fretful, andmost of the men whowere quite old, so many young men being in the army were big fellows with or without beards and those with beards looked like meek scolded St Bernard dogs..Many slinked about and could be seen to pick over the garbage tins, so hungry they were, as provisions which had been expected so long did not come.And Jack could see what they found there.with Jackand all his girl and boy scout friends food was pretty scarce too and none too good at that- -t rnipsce cut into six or leapieces ad boiled in dity water,and unwashed carrot or i other vegetable tops---badly mouldy patotoes were tit bits and the chief luxury at times had been thin rice soup in whichvf floated little bits of beef sniew and these were cut up so small that they would tale a lot of work to be found.Nothwithstanding everything got eaten, and if any one was ever so well off as not to want all his or her share there were a dozenothers standing by rellis ready to relieve him of it.Only the dregs that the laddle cannot reach were tippped out and thrown into the garbage tins.And along with that sometimes went a few turn ip peelings mouldy bread crusts, and all kinds of muck.

and indeed this thin miserable dirty garbage was always the same object of the unfortunate refugees.Jack had observed them in the evening before picking it out of the stinking tins greedily and go off with itunder their very blouses or in theirpockets.As to him it was strange indeed to see these many unfortunates when close up.They among men women and children even had faces that made one think, and think seriously, the men had honest peasant faces broad foreheads, broad noses broad mouths, broad hands, and thick hairs, indeed looked somewhat like the very Apostles of Our Lord.Many were farmers who had done nothing all their lives but threshing, reaping, and apple picking and other chors of the farm.And to Jack they looked just as kindly as all the loving saints of old.The children looked like the very innocents who could never sin, and the women were like saints of modern time.It was distressing to watch their movements, to see them begging for something to eat.They were all rather feeble, forindeed Jack could observe that they only got enough nourishment to keep them from starving, and it seemed the flood, fires, and probably the enemy too was keeping the expected provisions from ariving.Indeed He and the whole crew on board the raft, including Gertrude and all her girlsdout and spy followers have not had sufficient food tobeat longenough, and had to run dangerous chances to secure provisions by raiding the enemys camps, or territory.Jack knew many had dysentery, for furtively many of the men women and children displayed the blood stained tails of their shirts.Their back,en and their necks were bent, their knees were sagging their heads drooped as they stretched out their hands and begged with those soft deep musical voices that were like warm stoves and cosy roomsat home.

The men of the Relief Committee in the camp had run out of provision s and seem to be as bad off as the unfor un fortunate refugees. If only"Thought Jack"They would not look at one so what great misery can be in their faces,and in their eyes..The refugees too Jack noticed were the most pitiful clotyin g clothing.Most of the refugees even had bad shoes, or no shoes at all, and half the children were rugged or nearly naked..It was a fact too that most of the refugees had parted with everything else they had and were therefore the worse off.It was indeed very distressing to watch them partake what they could of their scanty meal.Jack had now almost wished he had not entered the refugee camp.

In the darkness of the former night Jack had been able to see their forms move like sick storks, like great big birds.They even came up close to the wire fence, and leaned their sad faces against it their fingers hook round the mesh and some would be standing side by side andwith bitter looks on their faces look tward the flood. They rarely spoke and then only a very few words.They were human ab and brotherly tward one another.They were all apathetic and listless and all gave stories of having lost their all in the flood.Jack could now this morning see some of them standing at the wire fence, and some times one would go away and then another at once would take hisplace in the line. All of them were silen t or only spoke when spoken to first.He watched their dark forms, and the beards of some of the men moving in the wind.Why did the Glandelinians do this to them.Their lives were evidently obscure and guiltless of the dreadful war,and Jack wished he could knowmore of them, what the names of all of them were, how they lived, what they are go ngoing to do when the flood finally goes away, what their burdens were, then his emotion would have an object and might become more sympathy than he had now. The very disaster has made these silent figures Glandelinias worse enemies, a word of command or of entra entreaty by the christian government would transform all the able bodied men among the refugees into soldiers dangerous to Glandelinia. Jack Thought to himself,"At some great table some document was signed by some Glandelinian officials of whom no one e yet knowsd and then for over two years already this war crime on which now the worlds condemnatio n and severest penalty may fall, became Glandelinia highest aim itself.Yet whether they would make soldiers who could draw such a distinction when they looked at these quet quist men with their child like faces and apostles beards.

Jack believed to himself that even the fiends in hell is not more of an enemy to the christians than these Glandelinin Glandelinian soldiers are, that the Glandelinians are bigger devils than all in the region of the forever lost..Jack felt he would have great joy in shooting down as many of the Gladelinians as possible.

Such thoughts ff frightened Jack almost, he felt that he dared not th n think this way ag more or he might see a whole legion of Glandelinians coming at him in devils forms.He fancied beyond the flood which to him was Danites Lad of the inferno lay the bottomless abyss.He felt it is not now the time,,, but he cannot lose these thoughts he would be forced to keep them and till

the frightful war was ended. At the sights of such suffering among these refugees his th heart was beating very fast, this is the result, the great result, that he had observed in the wars storm of devastation that he had looked for as the only possibility of human existance striving for amid flood and fire with the almost annihilation of human feeling which is now a task that would make life afterwards worthy of these hedious years.He took out some of his provisions from his knapsack and gave some to the refugees whom he could spare it to.Their gratified looks comforted the boy scout.The hour went by, the air was foreg again from smoke of the far distant forest fires and Jack heard that one of the refugees had died and was being buried.On inquiring he learned that every day one of them dies.He placed himself on guard during the burial of a little child.The refugees sang at the Mass for the dead and it sounded as if there were no voices but a sad dolefull organ far away on the rushing flood.

The burial however was quickly over and then some of the refugees again stood aga a ainst the wire fence.Jack had found a few of the refugees who were of German and English descent and one was a player of a sort of harp and who told Jack he used to be a harpest in Angelinia Agathia.Jack told him he could play a piano a little and so the man fetched his harp and began to play. The others even women and children sat down and leaned their backs against the fence while he stood up and played, sometimes withan absent expression which players of musical instruments have when they close their eyes or again he would sway the instrument to the tune of the song and smile across to Jack and the others.He played mostly old folk and childrens songs, and songs of floods, and the others either hummed or sang with him.The sound of the harp was doleful to Jack.The voices soon ceased, and the harp continued alone and it sounded so sad that Jack had tears in his eyes.

Tward ten oclock before Jack had to go back to the raft Jean and even Jane Melfort come over to aid him view the refugee camp and went for a short walk along the edge of the flood.The few hours of this sight seemed to be a torture, indeed were a torture, the three children did not know what to talk about so they spoke of the condition od of the refugees in the camp..I The situation for them indeed was bad, it was now definitely a fact that all means of transporting food to them and medicines by rail or other wise was impossiblebecause of the floods and the enemy and forest fires, and other great or minor hinderance mmmany were already starving, a great number were sick, and three refugees needed to be operated on shortly, and there were not enough of surgeons.The doctors had hoped that one of the sick would soon recover.

"What is to be done on such a case of suffering in this camp then?" Jack asked.

"Maybe take the chances of raiding the enemys camps to get suply for them and ourselves too."said Jane Melfort.

"How is that to be done?"

"I'll speak to Angeline Jennings.She'll decide."

"In which way.?"

"I don't know.We must wait untill we know how it will be brought about.We want to make sure how the battle which is raging will turn out first.And besides with raiding a enemys lines when he is defeated is easier, if not equally as dangerous.But us kids can do more without mishap than any soldier can."

"So you think it is necessary to raid the enemys lin es and to get enough supplies for allthose men whom and children and for ourselves too."said Jack "I believe you two girls are suggesting a "fairy Tale.If that can be done we have worked a miracle."

Jane Melford nodded.They passed a man whose face was broken and full of furrows.A wo an who stood near him and who probably was either his elder wife or his mother looked very sickly and a little girl stood standing by was nearly a skeleton.

"If I only knew how the chances would be to get a good haul for these refugees.I'd take the risk"said Jack finally.

"Have you not ever tried it before?"asked Jane.

"Not for so many I haven't.And at least surely I cannot do that alone- I would need help."

"Yes help would be needed, that is how it is with us,, and with all girl and boy scouts. But we could do it better than the soldiers.They don't dare to take the risk we, and even the Vivian Girls have, and if any one was asked to try it they would worry themselves dreadfullly beforehand about it, but us for whom it seems not so important we could accomplish it much better as a matter of course."

"And the cost of discovery and failure afterwards would be so expensive" said Jean.....

"Doesn't Violet,and her sisters succeed in everything they undertake?"Jack asked.

"No not always.They have been known by the spanish special generals off the eamy enemy too long."

"Have they more experience than others."

"Yes."

"Have they many good assistants?"

"No"said Jean with a shake of the head."They do most of it all the time. I bet those plans were responsible for their capture."

"I know that "said Jack."Before they were taken as some one said they were standing in their library in Emperor Vivians headquarters untill twelve oclock that night.At twelve the Glandelinians must have sneaked into the house by some secret unknown passage as Jennie you know wrote and got away with them ad and the plans too."

Afterwards the two little girlscouts accompanied Jack to the edge of the camp.Jeanwho had these with her in her knapsack gave one old man a pot of jam and a bag of potatoe cakes, the latter of which she had made herself..And in order to cheer the man up a bit they told him a few stories, soldiers jokes, and the like, and of strange things done to Glandelinian generals by Violet, and her sisters. Then going to a lonely spot, the three scouts spread the jams of jam and spread the jam on the cakes and ate some. Jack had no taste for them, and so he went forth to give some to the children of the refugees.They had now been in the refugee camp for several hours.Great clouds of smoke again appeared in the sky to the northeast.The two girls stood on shore watching the flood waters roll past.Jack noticed a mass of wreckage mingled with true trunks aground on shore, and he searched among it to see if he could find some provisions.But month n othing. Jack asked one man if he knew,where the city of Evangeline Sit St Claire lay but no one knew exctly.He searched furg further out on the flood in one of the boats and from a floating house which he dared to go into and raid, he found some provisions in the attic but no person s.And so with his rifle and his pack he set out again on the way further.By the time he overtook a floating trunk he towed it ashore but found nothing in it except old rags. This did not seem very cheerful to him.Some of the refugees had told him too of heavy losses that they heard the christian armies had been heaving.Jack inquired if any one knew whether any actions had occured at Cederjin e but no one knew anything about them.Jack had searched farther even with the help of his two girl companions and wandered about here and there, ad x and he remarked that it seemed to him a wondervu wonderful feeling..Then at last the three succeeded in getting ashore a number of sealed boxes and found they contained water soaked bread.

"What is it like bei ng a boy scout in the army?"one of the child refugees who was a boy asked.

"Very good if you like it"said Jack, with a sly wink to Jean.

"Yes"hec i sighed"I saw your wink."I suppose you mean by that that it is hard times and everything else is rather messed uphy that."

"Oh no.But you will have to go through a lot of red tape to become one lad.N ot every body can be one you know."This is J eanj my girl companion, ad an d this is my other friend Jane Melfort."

With others coming up Jack had an uneasy con science when he looked at them, ad and yet without any good reason .Jack brought out the rest of the potatoe cakes and jam so they o could have some too.Two cakes Jack found mouldy,and seeing it was still possible to eat them, Jack kept them for himself and gave the fresh ones to two little girls.As he was saw how they ate Jack could have almost wept for he could herdly control himself an y longer.He told some of the refugees that he believed everything would soon be all right again.In th the distance the battle though far away could be heard thundering loudly, and the walls of the tent shivered.

Jack remembered his first days in the camp when there had been a great deal of polish n polishing to be done, and how he and all the boy scouts had been strictly inspected at every turn.Every one who were in civilian clothes received uniformed.Jack remembered it all and how there was so much drill and fuss how every one had been expectant.Then at last the precious moment arived.He remembered how he andall were to be inspected by the Vivien Girls, and how every one stood up stiffwhen they appeared.He remembered how curious he had been to see what they looked like, and watched themas they marched along the line, and he was not at all disappointed.Judging from the p c pictures of them he had at first imagined them to be extremely beautiful and above all to have musical v i voices, ad and yet their apparance exceeded the pictures of them.

Afterwards now while still in the camp of refugees Jack began to disguss this with his two girl friends.Jack said ;

"So that is what the Glandelinians like to do to the good Vivian Girl Prin cesses because they hate us christians.Every one of the Glandelinians ought to be made to stand up stiff to them."Jack meditated then finished"The Manleys too, the dirty dogs.They ought to be made to stand up stiff to them to eh girls?"

"Sure indeed."said Jane....

Jack however had not finished his idea yet.He thought for a while and then asked;"and would not it be better if the ins intruder King of Glandelinia would have to stand up stiff to them too as we do to an Emperor."

The two girlscouts were not quite sure about it, and Jean said that she could not decided on that, but it would tickle her pink to see him be mistaken for a football.Howeber however she said that despite their exalted position the Vivian Girls live and act like humble and daring saints.

"What rot the Glandelinians did hatch out in this bloody war"said Jane." The main point is that the whole of Glandelinia should be made to stand up stiff before us all."

However Jack was quite fascinated."But look"he announced"I simply can't believe that the Vivian Girls should be compelled to go through the horrors of the war as the others do."

"You can bet your boots they don't have to.It's their choice, and I'd dare any one to try to talk them out of it."

"Four ad a half wit makes seven."said Jean"Manley has a maggot in his brain Jack.To get his head clear he ought to have that headworm cultivated.He then probably would be able to quite this wicked war business he is carrying on and save his miserable soul. "

"But what I would like to know"said Jean"Is whether there would have been such a big war as this if Emperor Vivian himself had said "HN o."

"I'm not so sure of that much"Jack interjected."He was against it from the first.We were fored into it by Glandelinia's crazy actions.You know by the whole world Glandelinia is looked upon as a "Mad Nation."

"Well if Abbiannia had not desired the war, then perhaps Glandelin ia too could have avoided it by saying"No".

"That's probable "Jean agreed"But the people not the ruler or the generals said yes."

"It's queer when one thin ks about it"said one of the refugee boys"Our armies are all in the fields to protect the nati nation from Glandelinias invasion.And surely the Glandelinians are here to protect their own country. And Glandelinia's cause is said to be wicked.Now h who's in the right?"

"Perhaps both"said another refugee child, without believing it.

"Yes, well now indeed your sympathy seems for both"said Jack almost scorn fully."For what the enemy has don e to you and us you say that.Maybe you indeed intend to drive me into a corner with your argument but all the Churches all the christian nations in the world and all national newspapers throughout the world say and try to prove that we are the only ones that are right, and lets hope so---but no doubt the Glandelinian professors, parsons and newspapers w say that the right is on their side, wicked as the cause is what about that?"

"That I don't know"said a refugee girl in answer"But which ever wayit is there's terrible war just the same and every month there is more armies coming on in on both sides.But I would not be afraid to bet that Glandelinia's cause is with the devil.But how did this war get started.We know were start by one country hadly offending another, but we did not offend Glandelinia.She offended us, and started the war too."

"Are you littlegirl reallly as stupid as that or are you just pullin my leg."growled Jack"I don't mean that part at all.We can't see either that the ruler or the generals are too entr entirely responsible.It is fully the people of Glandelinia.We never offended th the foe it is true."

"Then you scouts haven't any business in the armyat all."replied the refugee boy."We feel ourselves offended.Our homes are all con e, my parents are dead and I am alone having lost my littlest sister."

"Well let me tell you."said Jane Melfort almost sharply"This doesn't apply only to you.There are hundreds of thousands nay millions in the same sad state as you are."

"Then I suppose I should be join joining the boyscouts at once."Retorted the refugee boy, and every one laughed.

"Oh gosh he means the Glandelinian people as a whole, the Glandelinian country"Exclaimed Jean.

"Glandelinia, Gladelinia"----Jack snapped his fingers contemptuously. "What is glandelinia.To my idea she is Hell coming from below and taking possession of the earth."

"That is right" said Jean"You have said something for once Jack.There's no difference between the people of Glandelinia, and the population of the In fernal Regions."

"But it seems they go together"Insisted Jane,"Without the Infernal Regions, there would be no Glandelinia an dthis horror.I just thought once that Glande linia wanted to conquer the world."

"Yr True but just you consider, almost all of us are mere child scouts.And In the Glandelinian army too the majority are of child scouts. Every one in Glandelinian s wants to be in the war too.N o this horror is not merely the fault of the rulers.It is the people.They want us in theirpossession, they want all the christian world wiped out.Yet the cause of the war is absolutely dish disputed.Some say e child slavery brought it on, some think different, some say it is caused by the early persecu tions of the Glandelinianspon the Vivien girls and the like.Yet it does not seem so."

"Then what is exactly the war for?" asked the little girl refugee.

Jack shrugged hixs shoulders."There must be only to the Gladelinian people to whom the war is useful."

"Well I'm not one of them"grinned a boy refugee.

"Not you nor any one else here"said Jane.

"Who are they then" Persisted another child refugee."It isn't any use to the Glandelin ian leaders either. They have everything they need and wanted already.They have great armds to command.Of course every Emperor requires one war to make himself become famous.And generals too usually.They sometimes become famous too through war, even more famous than emperors sometimes.Look at general Concentinian Aronburg, Sladerlinia, Kindernine, and others.There are also other Glandelinian people back behind there who profit by the war that's certain.Not one of us of Abbiannia at first wanted it,and then all at once there it is.Abbiannia did not want the war, and yet we are in it just.the same because we saw no way out.And there are many lies told by the Glandelinians for just think of those papers we have found often on prisoners where it says that when we Recieve Our Blessed Lord we are eating h Him.The fellows who write that ought to go and hang themselves like Judas.They are the real cul prits who committ the slaughter of the 'Holy Innocents of Abbiannia."

Jane arose to her feet."Anyway the war is better in Calvarinia than in Abbiannia instead as Calverinia was a Glandelinian province but which stuck for us instead and fell off Glandelinia's Yoke.Just you take a look at the shells holes between the opposing lines at Vivian Wickey if you are ever there.I have seen them."

"True"assented Jack"But for us who like to be too good as it is said, no war at all would be far better.It would be a great blessing"

Jack seemed to be quite proud of himself because he had scored over all in his conversation.And his opinion was quite popular and tip typical here andone meets a boy like this time and again and always there is nothing whatever which one could probably counter it because always that is the limit of their very comprehension of all the factors in involved.The national feeling of the soldier of either side resolves itself into what the war and its cause as to right might be.The refugee boy laid down in the grass and growled angrily"The best thing is not to talk about Glandelinia and the rotten way she carrys on the war.We have have seen enough of it."

"It won't make any difference anyway that's sure she'll do it again anyhow." agreed Jane.A few hours later the three child scouts went a distane distance southeast of the regu refugee camp where he had heard some great explosion ha had occured during an rear guard action of the battle still raging.On the way the three passed through a devastated wood with the tree trunks shattered and the ground ploughed up.At several places there were six tremendous craters the like of which the child scouts never saw before in any war.

"Great guns something exploded here""Jack said to Jean.

"They must have been mines"She replied, and then with a look of horror in her face suddenly pointed forward to one of the nearest trees.They looked in dismay and observed dead men hanging in the branches and many of them.Close by a naked soldier was squat ting in the fork of a tree, he still had his "College Professor "like h haton otherwise this Glandelinian was entirely uncled. However what was more shokin g to the little girls and the boy there was only half of him sitting up there, the top half on ly, for the legs were missing.

"What in the world can that mean."Asked Jean trying to hide the sight from her eyes with her hond.

"He must have been blown entirely out of his clothes."Muttered Jack."It's funny though I have never seen such a sight before.But I have heard if a mine gets you

it blows a person or any number of persons clear out of their clothes."

"But how does it do it.?"

"It must be the concussion."

Jack searched around.He said;

"I'm right for so it is.Here on this tree hangs a bit of gray uniform, and over there isplastered a bloody mess that was once a human limb.Over there worst still lies a body bu with nothing but a piece of the under pants i on one leg and a collar of the tunic around the neck.Otherwise it is naked and badly torn and his clothes are hanging up in the trees.I see both arms ass are missing as though some one hadpulled them off."

Jack discovered one of the arms two hundred feet off in a tree.The dead man lay on his face, and there where the arm wounds were, the earth was black with drid blood.And underfoot the leaves were found scratched up as though the man had been kicking.

"This scene is no joke."said Jane."I don't want to remain here."

"A shell splinter in the body is no joke either"Replied Jack shrugging his shoulders.

"Well as this happened to Glandelinian soldiers I don't see why we should get tender hearted"said Jean.

"Yet all this could have happened only a little while ago the blood still being fresh.As everybody we see are all dead we do not need to waste any more time, but some one should report this affair a at the next stretchers bearers post.

Jack decided as he had planned to see whether he could secure some provisions from the enemys lines to give to the refugees.Since seeing their condition Jack felt a certain strange attatchment to them,and he managed to get some of the braver refugee boys to go with him and his two girl compajions.They then agreed on aplan slipped out through the bobed wire and then divided and crept forward seperately.After a while they found a shallow ditch and crawled into it, being now near where they supps supposed the enemys lines to be.From here Jack peered forward.From somewhere all of a sudden there was the sound of moderate machine gun fire.It swept across seemingly from all directions not very heavy but sufficient to make any one keep down, and it seemed all of a sudden the boy and girlscouts were in this fire.The ground lay s xstark in the plae pl pale light of the dark day and as a strange pa a parachute shell opened out there was a strange soun d.Jane muttered that some distance in front there were a troop of Glandelinian soldiers.That seemed nasty as it seemed hard to observe them, as they are very good at patrolling too.And oddly enough they are quite dangerous dangerous for they can see anywhere like cats and they were always sheen able to shoot down a christian enemy patrol with the most perfect neat ease ad without being seen too. A shell or some thing that made a noise like a loud "Automobile Exhaust" landed close beside Jack.Jack had not heard it coming and became terrified, and at the same moment a senseless fear took hold of him.Here he and his few freinds were alone and almost helpless in the dark and the dense fog of smoke-perhaps even the eyes of the relentless enemy had been watching himand his friends for a long time from a distant enemyposition in front of them, and no doubt would hulr hurl bombs to blow them all to pieces.Jack tried to pull himself together.He did not think it was so dangerous to approach close to the enemy rearposition .And it was not his first patrol near the enemys lin es either and not a particular bad risky one.But it was the first since he was so long away from general Concentinian Aronburgs army and beside the lay of the land was still rather strange to him and he could not tell whether he was already in the midst of the battle and in an abandoned enemy trench.He tried to tell himself that his alarm is absurd th t there was probably nothing at all in the semi darkn ess watching him and his friends because otherwise the missle would not have landed so flat.It was in vain.

In whirling confusion the boys thoughts hummed in his brain---he seemed to hear the warning voice of his mother---he imagined he saw a long wall of Glandelinians rushing forward with fixed bayonets, he fancied a bright picture of everything sinki sinking down into a boiling burning lake of fire of dragons tormented, terrified and in his imagination he thought he saw the grewwhite impalpable muzzle of a Glandelinian rifle whichedmoved noiselessly before him which ever way he tried to turn his head.The sweat brokeout from every pore.

However he still continued to lie in his shallw ditch.He looked at the time on his wrist watch ad saw only that a few minutes had passed.His forehead was wet, the sockets of his eyes were damp, his hn hands were trembling,and he was panting softlyHeTHe felt nothing but an awful spasm of fear and all his efforts to subside it like wasllike froth into the one desire,to be able to have the chances to just stay li lying there and n ot go.His limbs felt.Mued glued to the earth,and tHough they made a wHin attempt he f could not move them away he felt he could not go forward and therefore he pressed himself down himself down on the earth and made uphis mind tB stay lyin g there..But immdiately yjr wave the wave flooded over himanew a mingled sense of shame of remorse and yet at the same time oH security.He raised himself up a little bit to take a look around, when Jane hit him on the head with her o pistol butt whispering in herself;

"You damn fool keep down"and he ducked down again his eyes burnin g with staring into the smoke fog.He waged a wild ad senseless fight, he felt worse than anything that he wanted toget out of the ditch and yet slide back into it again and s yet something seemed to say;"You must it is your comrades it is not an enemy yonder "and again"what does it matter to me I have no guilty sinful naturn, and I have only one life to lose, and heaven afterwards;"That seemed the result of all that horror and he reproached himself bitterly.

But he could not convince himself, and for some reason or other he felt of all a sudden terribly faint.He raised himself slowly and started to reach forward with his arms to drag his body after him, when both girls grabbed him Jean saying sharply and almost loudly;"No recklessl recklessness Jack or we 'll go off and leave you here alone.What will happen to you will he to us too.We are tread cats here and cannot move a finger.A machine gun nest is trained upon us, and would open fire and kill us all and we are exposed too.We got to lit s lie still."Then Jack heard sounds and dropped back.Suspicious sounds could be detected clearly despite the noise of the artillery fire.He listened, the sound was behind him.The girls heard it too but they gave only one glance and see it was a patrol of other boys their refugee escp e escort moving along the ditch on hands andknees.Now they heard muffled voices.To judge by the tone that might be the boy whom he aruged with talking.At once a new warmpth flowed through Jack.Indeed these voices, these few quiet words,these slighter noises in the ditch behind him recalled Jack at a bound from the fright and terrible loneliness and the fear of death by which he had been almost destroyed.They were more to him than life those voices ,they were more than even the sound of his muthers voice and more comfortin g than fair they were the strongest and more comforting thing there than an thing else, they were the voices of his friends..He was not shuddering any more, he did not feel alone in the darkness and smoke---he felt the relief as if the coming of heaven itself, he felt he blonged to them and they to him, that all shared the same terror and the same life, that all the boy and girl comrades were nearer and dearer to each other than even lovers, he could bury his face in any of them, in these voicesthese words that have finally saved him/ and which would stand by him.

At Janes signal he followed them cautiously gliding over the edge of the ditch and "snaking his way with them forward, shuffling along on x all fours a bit further keeping track of his bearings, keeping them in sight, and looking round him and observing the distributing of the gun fire so as to be able to find his way back with them without mishap.Then he tried to get in t utouch with the others.He was still afraid but now it seemed to be another fear, and intelligent one, an extraodin arily heightened caution.The weather was windy and hot and shadows of some kind flitted hither and thiter in the flicker of the gunfire.It revealed toolittle and too much.Often he peered ahead but always for nothing.He wondered why and how distant forest fires could make so much smoke as to produce day by day so much half night darkness.He and his friends advanced a long way and then started to turn back in a wide curve.He had not established touch with the others.He felt sure that every yard nearer the foe trenches filled him with confidence of success--and with haste too.It would be bad to get lost in this territory n now.Then all of a sudden a new fear laid hold of him.He felt sure neither he nor the two girls could remember the right direction.He became quiet and they stopped moving too and squatted in a new ditch and tried to loa locate themselves.More than once it had happened that some patrol had jumped joyfully into a trench only then to discover that it was the wrong one.After a short while he began to listen again, but still he could not be sure.The confusion of distant thundering of cannons now seemed so bewildering, ad the an d the other noises of battle so awe inspirin g that he could not tell in his agitation which way he or his girls friends should go.Perhaps they were crawling parallel with the lines with or two the lin es, and that might go on forever.So they crawled once again in a wide curve.

"Darn those confounded skyrockets."He moaned to himself.To him they seemed to burn for an hour and he could not make the least movement without bringing the bullets whistling round.But there was nothing for it now, he must get through. Falteringly he and the girls worked themselves further, moving off over the ground like three crabs, and the three of them had already ripped their hands and knees on the jagged splinters, as sharp as razor blades.Often they no thoug no doubt, especially Jack did think that the sky was becoming lighter on the eastern horizon, but then it came to his mind that it may be merely his imai imagination.Then gradually he reali e realized that to crawl in the right direction was a matter of life and death.Suddenly there was a tremendous earsplitting drosh.It was from a shell.Almost i immdiately there were two other dreadful reports.And then to his horror it began in earnest.Why did he lead the girls out here.It was an artillery fire from the christians no doubt opening upon the enemy positions for he knew it by the sound of the shells.Only the christians used these kind of shells.Then a park of machine guns began to rattle and there was nothing for it now but for them to stay lyin g low.Apparently a big counter attack was coming, and everywhere the rockets shot up without ceasing.The three of them lay huddled in the ditch half in water. They had decided when the attack comes, if it is from the enemy they would let themselves fe fall into the water with their faces as deep in the mud and water as they could them them without suffocating, and that they must pretend to be dead.Suddenly they heard the curtain artillery fire lift and at once they let themselves slip down into the water and kept their mouths just clear so that they could get a breath of air.As they ja lay motionless, they heard a tremendous noise as of many men running across the ditch---all their nerves became taut and icy.The sound clattered over them and away, it was the passing of the first wave of attack, and they were Glandelin ia s.Then came suddenly to Jacks mind;"What if a Gladelinian should leap into the ditch.?Swiftly he pulled out his little dagger grasped it fast and buried it in his little hand again under the mud.He decided if any Glandelinian soldier jumps in the ditch he would go for him, at once, stab him anywhere or in the throat so that he could not call out, for that was the only way, and even no doubt he would be as frightened as he was, and when in terror the they fall one fall upon one another Jack decided he must be first.Now he could hear the Glandelinian batteries firing and with a dreadful rolling roar.A shell lailed near the children, and that made Jack savage with fury, all it needs now is to be killed by the very shells of the christians too, he moaned a prayer ad and ground his teeth into the mud in a raving frenzy,and in the end all he could do was groan and pray..The crash of the shells bursted in his ears like volcanoes blowing up.He hoped that the christians would make a counter charge for them he believed he would be saved.He pressed his head against the earth and listened to the muffled thunder like the explosions of quarying --and raised it again to listen for the sound on top.Still the machine guns were rattling.He felt sure the christian positions were strong and almost undamaged.The rifle fire was now increasing.He felt better.The attacking enemy had not succeeded in breaking through, and a new sound proved to him that they were retreating.He sank down again, huddled, strained to the uttermost.The banging, the creaping the clanging became more audible.There was also one dreadful cry yelling among all the other sound.The Retreating Gladelin ian columns were being raked with gun fire, the attack was repulsed.

Already it seemed to become somewhat lighter, and the fog was growing thinner.Steps by mulitudes seemed to hasten over him.The first wave he sees literally melt away all fall into dead and wounded.Again another is torn up on the retreat while the rattle of machine guns became an unbroken sound.Just as he was about to turn round again a little something very heavy stumbled and with a crash a body of a Glandelinian soldier fell over the children and lay across them.As they managed to push it off a retreating Glandelinian saw them and jumped into the ditch to dispatch them with the bayonet.Jack did not even think at all he made no decision he only struck home and felt how the man suddenly convulsed became limp and collasping fell into the water.When Jack Jack recovered himself, he saw his hand was sticky and wet with blood.The man whom he st stabbed gurgled.It sounded to Jack as if he was literally bellowing, every gasping breathwas like a cry a thunder, but it was his l ittle boyish heart that was pounding.Jack wanted worst than anythin g to stop his mouth, stuff it with earth, stab him again to make him quiet for he was betraying him and the two girls, but finally he regained control of himself but had become so feeble that he could not any more l ift his handagainst him.Jack remained where he was his eyes glued on him, his hand grasping the knife ready

if he stirred to spring at him again..But it was evident he would not any more for Jack could easily hear that in his gurgling.But in the smoke haze Jack could only see him indistinctly.If it was not soon it would be too light,and it was very difficult n ow.Then as Jack tried to raise up his head he could see it was impossible already for the shell and machine and infantry fire so swept the ground that he would be shot through and through before he could make one movement.He tested it once with his camp whi which he took off and held it up to find out the level of the shots and the next instant it was knocked out of his hand by a bullet.This proved to him that the fire was indeed sweeping much toclow over the ground and that he wasnot far away enough from the enemys lines to escape being picked off by one of the snipers if he attempted to get away.The light increased.It was as he saw from a fire.Burning with anxiety he waited for the counter christian attack.His hands were white at the knuckles and he clenched them so tightly in his longing for the firing to cease so that his friends could come.Minute after minute trickled away.He dared not look again at the drak grey figure lying in the ditch.The bullets were hissing they seemed to make a steel net, never ceasing, never ceasing.

Then suddenly Jack noticed that he had blood on his hand and suddenly felt badly nauseated.Immediately he took some oith and rubbed the skin with it covering his had with the mud so that the blood could not be seen any more. All this time the dreadful firing and charges and coun ter chagres did not diminish and it was equally heavy on both sides.It was still early morni g morning and there was no coming of better daylight nor any sign of the smoke fog clearing up.Jo Jack saw a Angelinian soldier lyin g close by and could hear a gurgling from him too.In a fright he stopped his ears but soon he took his fingers away again because he feared he would not be able to hear any of the other sounds.The figure in purple opposite him moved, and the two girls at the sight fwlt like screaming, while Jack felt as if he was shrinking together and and involuntarily looked at the fallen man as if his eyes remained glued to it.He was a beardless man who lay there in the purple uniform and his head had fallen to one side, one arm was half bent and his head was resting help lessly upon it.The other hand was lying on his chest, and it was bloody.

"He must be dead too"Ja k Jack whispered to himself"He must be dead poor christian soldier, but anyhow he doesnU't feel it any more, for him too the war iw is over, and it is only his body which is gurling ."

As Jack watched the head tried to raise itself or at least the man was trying to raise his head, then the moaning for a moment became louder, and his forehead fell back upon his arm.Jack realized now that the Angelinian soldier was not dead, but only badly wounded maybe, but felt nevertheless that he was dying.Jack despite the slight protests of the two girls dragged himself tward the Angelinian soldier, hesitated as a shell crashed too close then supported himself on his hands crept a bit further or closer to him, then waited or hesitated again, and again resumed whdh to Jack seemed a terrible journey of three or four yards indeed seemin g to be a long terrible journey of many miles.At last after all this dangerous exposure Jack was beside him.Then the man opened his eyes for it was evident he had heard the lad,and for a moment gazed at Jack with a look of utter terror in his eyes.The mans body still was quiet and did not move, but in the eyes nevertheless there was such anextraordinary expression of fightiness that for a few minutes Jack thought the man would drop off dead any second.The wounded man lay still, indeed as perfedtl perfectly still as if he was reallly dead, not giving the slightest scund, even from him the gurgling had ceased; but to Jack indeed it seemed that the eyes still were crying out, and he made as if he would have tried to yell while simultaneously it seemed as if the mans life was gathering together in his eyes for one tremendous effort to ebb out, even gathered there together in a dreadful terror of death, and of Jack too.

Jacks legs seemed to give way, and he dropped on his elbow."No don't be afraid of me I'm no Glandelinian"Jack whispered as the mans eyes followed him.Jack felt that he was powerless to move so so long as the eyes of the man stared o sosc strangely at him.Then his heds slipped slowly from his br breast but only a little bit however just about a few inches, but nevertheless this movement seemed to break the power of thweeyes.Jack therefore bent forward shook his head and whispered"Don't be afraid I'm no Glandelinian."Jack raised one hand and to show him that he wanted to help him he stroked his forehead.The mans eyes shrunk back as the lad touched his forehead, then they lost their stare,the eyelids drooped lower and it seemed as if the tension was passed. Jack opened his collar and then placed his head more confortably upright.His mouth stood half open and the the man attempted to say something.Jack perciewed the soldiers lips were dry.And to his disappointment discovered that his waterbottle was not there for he had not brought it with him in making his patrol tward the enemys lines.But there is water or was water in the ditch down at the bottom.Jack climbed down, took his camp and scooped up the yellow

water into it.He slowly gulped it down, and Jack fetched some more, while Jane was unbuttoning his tun tun ic in order to allow Jaanto bandage him if it was possible.Indeed since he was a wounded Angelinian soldier they desired to help him all he could.He tried to resist to refuse the off ofer of help but his hand was too feable , and the shirt too was stuck,, and would not come away, and in investigating Jack found it was buttoned in the back.So there was nothin g for him to done it but to cut it off.He looked for his knife which he killed the glandelinian soldier with,and found it again . However when Jack began to cut the shirt the man opened his eyes once more and the strange look as if he wished to cry out was inthem again, and also a demented expression,and Jack tried to whisper"I want to help you comrade."Jack found there were threeee bayonet stabs. Jean covered them with some of her field dressing,and as the blooood ran out under it, she started to press it there, and he gave a groan.However that was all that could be done, and now they must wait, and wait..How long they were there or how many hours they knew not.The gurgling started again; and they realized that the brave soldier was slowly dying for they knew he was too badly wounded to be saved,and indeed Jack had tried to tell himself that he should live in time to see a prise priest and recieve the Last Sacraments but it was not to be so.If only he had not lost his revolver in crawling about Jack would shoot every Glandelinian that passed over and accross the ditch..

By this ti e time Jack was grouping on the very outer limits of reason for hunger seemed to devour him and he felt as if he even could weep for something to eat, and that he could n ot struggle against it.But to leave this ditch on the raging battlefield just now was ranksuicide.Again and again he fetched the dying man water and drank some himself.

The Glandelinian soldier lying a little beyond was the first one Jack had ever killed at close quarters, and whose death was his own doing for the first time .All the other boy scouts and many of the girls had experienced it already when they had been attacked and opened fire it happened to many in hand to hand fightingalso in battle and the other war conflicts.

Every gasp of the man cut through Jacks little heart like a knife, even though this dying christian soldier seemed to have some grief with him too, as it appeared by his face, some grief that brought him into the war, he seemed to even have an invisible dagger with which he even tried to stab Jack, n o in doubt in his half crazed condition believing Jack was a enemy soldier tryin g to do him harm.Jack would give anything if the soldier would but only stay alive for to him it was difficult, trying like taking castor oil to lie there in the ditch and have to see him,a friend lie there mortally wounded and to hear him groan.However after a few more minutes had passed when it was about ten oclock he was dead.As there was at thisportion a silon silence sudden on the battlefield Jack breathed freely again. But on ly for a very short time for soon the silence seemed more unbearable than the groans that was even still coming from the Glandelinian soldier he had wounded.Jack almost wished the gurliging was still coming from the w dead Angelinian.Yet it was mad now what Jack was doing.But he was desperate, he had to do something.He prop the dead man up again against the sloping wall of the ditch so that he laid him more comfortably although he knew he felt nothing now since he was dead.Jack closed his eyes, and noticed that they were brown, dark brown, his hair was not black and quite curly at the sides while the mouth was somewhat full and left, the nose was slightly arched like that of a Roman, the skin s m somewhat that of the Mexican color,but more whither.For a moment to Jack the mans face seemed to be almost healthy, then it suddenly changed into the same strange face of the many dead that he had seen so often before, strange faces to him and all alike. Jack believed without the slightest doubt that the poor soldiers wife still thought of him, and knew that ifshe too was still living she did not know he was dead.He looked too as if he would have often written letters --that she would be getting mail from him perhaps even a stary letter at whatever time a letter can go throu h through the disaster zone.Jacks state seemed also to be getting worse, she could no longer control his thoughts. He wondered what his poor wife would look like.Jack wished that his own father was sitting beside him, that if onlypossible his mother could see him.Then he thought that the man might have thirty or fourty years of life if only the battle had not occured.If only he had run four hundred yards farther to the left, he might now be sitting in the christian positions over yonder and writing a fresh letter to his wife.But Jack knew that he co uld get no further than way, for that was and is the fate of all christien soldiers and boy and girl scouts also.The silence spread.It seemed as if the battle was either over or had surged off beyond hearing.Jack felt he must talk,.So he spoke to even the dead man and said to him almost desprat-ly;

"Comrade I did not want the dirty Glandelin ians to kill you.If you had only jumped in here with me the I would not let the Glandelinians do it that if you would be sensible and not run off.You are as good a man as they, even better. If you had only used or thought of your hand grenades of your own bayonet of your rifle or pistol you would have been safe, I even now see your poor wife and your face and our Fellow ship.The Good Book says we must forgive.But how can we forgive such a enemy a like glandelinia comrade.Your spirt spirit your soul still sees all these horrors, the awful thousand upleaping flames to thousands of feet into the sky, the dreadful floods, and the aw ful battles and massacres.We before we die see it too late.The Glandelinians do not realize that we are just the same poor fellows like you them,that our mothers are just as anxious as ours theirs, and that we have the same fear of death, and the same dreadful agonies of wounds in battle, the same way of dying.How could we forgive the Glandelin ians, how could they be an enemy of such a good nation like ours.If we of both sides could only throw away these dreadful rifles,and discard these uniforms both of us could be brothers.But they say Glandelinia is winning, and I too believe every word of it, though I say nothing.I believe everything poor Mildred says for there is true fullevidence of it, it is being proven."

It was still quiet,the distant battle front was quiet except for the steady far distant crackling roar of rifle firing.The bul bullets however still p swop swept past they were not fired haphazardly but shrewdly and with perfect aim and seemed to come from three directions, and occassion ally dangerously close a gang gang high explosive shell bursted with a roar like the loudest thunder, and with the shock of a dreadful earthquake.Jack and his two girl companions could not yet get out.

"I will try and get a letter to your wife"Jack said hastily to the dead man"I will write to her shemust hear from me, it is better than fromsomeone else.I will tell her everything I have even told you, and she shall not suffer because of these dirty Glandelinian devils, I will help her, and your parents too ad your children if you have any----"

Jack discovered that his yellow tunic was half open.He hoped the pocket book of the soldier was easily to find.It was, but Jack hesitated to open it as Jane looked at him strangely but as she nodded he did so and found the book with the soldiers name written in it.Irresolutely he took the wallent in his hand and opened it, finding, some letters, and some pictures.He gathered them up and started to put the on them back again, but the strain Jack was under, the uncertainity, the hunger, the dreadful danger, these hours with a whole row of dead in the ditch and outside of it in windrows had confused him and indeed Jack wanted to hasten the re rel reldf to intensify and to end the st torture as one always strikes an unendurably painful hand against something hard regardless of everything.Jack found that there were portraits of a woman two little girls, and a boy small amateur photographs taken against a the ivy clad wall of some church.Along with them were letters.Jack took them a out and tried to read them.But eachword Jack tried to read pierced him like a shot in the breast, like a stab in the chest.The letters were from his wife, from the city of El Verso and Jack full well knew what had become of that city and almost burst out crying.Jacks brain now was taxed beyond endurance.But he relealized this much that he could never be able to write to these people as he intended for it was impossible.He being killed in battle had probably gone to join his wife and little ones.Jack looked at the portraits once more, and saw that clearly they were not well to do people.Jack felt that the dead man was now bound up with his own life, andhe would have been glad to do everything promise everything in order to save them grif, and Jackswore blindly that he meant to live only for his sake and dead family, with wet lips Jack tried to placate him, and deep down in the boyscout lay the hope that he may get even with the enemy this way,and yet perhaps even get more than satisfaction by some little strategem if only he and his girl friends were allowed to escape, then he would certainly see to it.Jack opened the book and read slowly;

"Gerad Antonio, Compositor of Abbiennian Daily Times."

With the dead mans pencil Jack wrote the name and address on an envelope, then keeping the envelope swiftly thrust everything else back into his tunic.

After this Jack felt calm calmer.His fear was groundless,and the name troubled him no more and the madness passed."Comrade"said Jack to the dead man again, and a little more calmly "To day it was you to go, to morrow it might be me.But if I do come out of the war comrade, I will fight against the foe, such a foe that has struck our nation down.Life also I promise you comrade. But I hope this war shall never happen again.

Jack however was becoming terribly stupified with hunger and exhaustion.The past was like a dense fog to him as he knew there was no hope of getting

out of this de dangerous territory yet.Jack believed he had also fallen into a doze, for he had not realized that noon was fast approaching.The twilight darkness still continued., and it seemed to him as if it was never to end and the eastern sky was as d dark as midnight with smoke.If it were only a little sunshine.Then suddenly for no reason or other Jack began to tremble for he feared something might happen in the interval.He thought no more of the dead Glandelinian for he was of no consequence to him now nor would ever be.Yet with one bound the lust to live flared up again and also everything that had filled his thoughts went down before it.Then suddenly too Jack began to realize that even the very christian soldiers would fire on him if he tried to leave the trench, for at that distance they could not tell whth is friend or foe.Yet with the coming of darkness produced by the smoke Jack decided to take the chance and to go the way he had come and get back if possible to the refugee camp.The first explosion of a shell came closer, but the battle front within his own hearing still remained quiet.The darkness from the smoke continued to grow and the boyscouts excitement abated,and yet he waited cautiously untill the first rocket went up.Then he bidding the two girls to follow him cautiously crawled out of the ditch.Before him lay the on coming night darkness brought on by the smoke clouds and the pale gleaming fields and the wreck of battle torn forests.Jack in his caution fixed his eye on a depression of the land decape and the moment the light died out from the rocket the three children scurrid over into it, and after a pause groped farther, then waited a few minutes and then scrambled onward.He got further away from the danger zone, the girls following.Then by the lig light of a rocket Jack saw something move in the stretch of wire fence close by then it stiffened and lied still.Jadk Jack waited untill he would observe the movement again, and then was surprised to see that it was Penrod and a number of the boy and girl scouts taking the chances to come out and to find him.But Jack for a moment was suspicious untill he recognized the hats and the uniforms.Then Jack uttered the famous Boyscout signal, and immediately there came an answer calling;;

"Jack, Jack, is Jane and Jean with you."

Jack called out in answer realizing it was Penrod and the others who had come out even with a stretcher looking for himand the two girls.Penrod bounded forward.

"Are you wounded Jack.How are your girl companions."

"No we are sound."

As a shell burst close by they all dropped down.Jack and thw two girls asked for something to eat, and eat like wolves wolves. In a few words Jack told what had happened.Yet to Penrod there was nothing new about it for such things had happened before.Penrod told Jack that at Delight's Junction it happened once that he had lain for two days and nights behind the enemys lines before he could make his way back to the christian lines.Jack told of his experience with the wounded Angelinian soldier in the ditch,and how he had killed the Glandelinian officer.Jack came back on the raft with the rest, and all tried to coaxl the three and especially Jack and they tried to calm them.

"You can't do anything about it"said Gertrude.You and your girl friends was attacked by the Glandelinian.What else could you have done?That is what you are here for."

Jack listened to them and felt comforted more than reassured by their presence.

"Look there for instance." said Dolores, and she pointed.

Near the railing of the raft stood some Abyss Abyssinkilian snipers. They were resting their rifles on the parapet and watched the doings of enemy patrols on the shore.Once and again a shot would crack out and every time some Glandelinian soldier on horseback on the shore was hit and some one on board the raft cried out;

"I have found the mark.Did you see how the Glandelinian foul leaped into the air."

"What do you say to that Jack!"asked Mildred Maxwell.

Jack only nodded.

"If he keeps that up he will get a medal."said Jennings."That's his thirt Thirty Nin eth score."

Jeanand Jacke looked at each other.

"I would be afraid to keep on shootin g Glandelinians"he said.

"All the same "said Hattie Kornmann"It is very good for you that you don't have to.But you do not need to lose any more sleep over your experience. But it's best Jack never to go too close to a battle line again.It's toodangerous you can't raid the enemys lines during a battle .It's impossible."

Another rifle cracked out sharp and dry and Jacksaw a Glandelinian on shore topple from his hose.Those on the raft were opening fire because the enemy was scouting to get details of the raft.Gertrude explained that this had been

going on since morning, and she had only waited untill the return of Jack and the two girls before she would proceed onward with the raft.

Those on board the raft had dropped in for a good job.The raft too was moving out into the water by this time because it was being shelled too heavily and in particlar some had to watch the muddy dump so that no shells would destroy its contents. W They were supposed to provision themselves from the same stores.They considered themselves mighty lucky all the same, all the Abyssinkilian soldiers of their escort had had greater losses than they had.

Jack had selected on the raft a good strong tent.The entrance was protected by a seperate board boxes in a tall straight pile.During the meanwhile all on board the raft had developede sort of immense military industry.This was an opportunity not only to eat swftly out of range but to outwit the enemy too. every one always make the best use of such oportunitiies.The war is too desperate to allow any of the scouts to be sentimental for long.That was only possible so long as things were not going too badly.And after all these daring boy and girlscouts could not afford to be anything but a matter of cat fact.

Indeed it was such a splendid matter of fact that Jack or any of his followers often shuddered when he afterwards remembered it and the experiences aboard the raft.No matter how exciting were the time all the boy and girl scouts and even their soldier escorts had to take things as lightly as they could, and also to make the most of every opportunity, and nonsense always stands stark and immediate besides horror and fear.They have always learned it cannot otherwise, and that was how they always hearten themselves to be brave under any circumstances. For those who had desired to sleep outside on the raft, its flooring was covered with mattresses, which they had hauled from the top floors of floating houses which had come their way.Only in the middle of the raft floor was there any space.They had also secured from floating houses, and even debris blankets, eiderdown and luxurious other soft affaird, chairs, and tables, and even trunks were secured, pillows, and so forth.There had been plenty of everything to be had in the upper storis of floating houses. The soldiers had found a large mahogany bed, which was easy to take apart with a series of sky blue silk and lace coverlets.They had sweated like slave slaves in bringing it trip by trip to the raft from the half submerged house, but a man would not let a thing like that slip, and it certainly might be shot to pieces in a day or two for rescue committees had given orders that all floating houses not occupied should be shot to pieces to prevent too heavy a wreckage jam forming which would if caught atplaces prevent the flood from receding at all. The raft had also during the progress onward come upon a literall have submerged town where there were many houses above water, and many of the girl and boy scouts risked lots to make a patrol through those water logged houses.In a very short time Jack himself had collected more than three dozen eggs, and five pounds of fairly fresh butter.Suddenly there was a crash in what P Penrod who was there supposed to be a drawing room, and he saw to his dismay ai an iron kitchen range hurtling through the wall past him and contin ue onward a yard from him and go crashing through the wall behind.Two immense holes.It evidently came from a house opposite which was floating in the water, and Penrod believed a shell had just landed there, probably a stray one from the distant battle."The glandelinian swine""said Penrod with a grimance and he and the others continued their search.All at once Penrod pricked up his ears and hurrie hurried into the other room, and suddenly stood petrified, for there on a table was a larege large crate full of hens.Penrod rubbed his eyes andlooked once again to make certain that he was not seeing things.Yes they were still there.Penrod and another boy told hold of the crate at both ends and brought it to the window and shoed it out into one of the waiting boats.

"This will make a grand feed indeed"said one of the lads."

After this they first landed the supplies onto the raft, and then rowed to another house and there inside on the top floor they found a stop story kitchen with an immense fire place with three ranges, pots, pans, and kettles and all kinds of kitchen utensils, everything, even to a stack of small chopped wood on a tall mantle place indeed a regular paradize for any cook.Others of the boy and girlscouts had been in other houses hunting for potatoes, carrots and green peas, and in another house find about four heads of Cauliflower.

The male chickens were slaughtered, and Penrod and Jack saweto them immediately. Many of the girlscouts wanted to make potatoe cakes to go with the roast chic chicken.But in hone of the wrecked houses could a girl or boy find a grater for the potatoes.....But however as it is with girl and boyscouts these kind of difficulties are soon over . With a nail Jean who despite her age and size has a strong little hand punched alot of holes in a pot lid and made a grw grater.

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Threee of the boy scouts then put on thick rubber gloves to protect their fingers against the grater, eighteen others even girls peel the potatoes, and the business finally got started and a regular "Cooks Gallery "started to form on the big raft.Penrod, and some of the other boys, and girls too sampled the chickens(Keeping the hens to lay eggs() the carrots, the peas, and the other vegetables.Penrod who knew how mixed a "french"white sauce for the cauliflower. Jean and some of the others fried the potatoe pancakes four at a time.Those who did the frying tossed the pan so that the pancakes which were done on the one side, sail up turn in the air and were caught again as they came down(one of course em smack in Jeans face).The chickens were roasted whole,and many of those working on them stood round them as before an alter.However it seemed that the smoke from the cook stoves began to start trouble.Glandelinian observation baloons had spotted the raft, and the smoke, and those in uniform as christian troopers and child scouts below them, and shells from a long range Glandelinian batteries started to drop on them, those well known samekind of spra i spraying little "Daisy Cutters"that made only small holes but scattered fragments widly close to the ground.Two horses were killed on the raft, and they kept dropping closer and closer all around them, still being desprate the boys and girls could not leave the foood in the lurch.

A storm of splinters whizzed through the top of the large tent.The roasts were already cooked . But frying the potatoe pancakes was getting difficult.However they hoped for relief for the raft was moving faster, but nevertheless the explosions came so fast that the splinters struck oftener and oftener against the walll of the tent, and swept in through the window and entrance ripping some of the solid canvass apart.However it went this way- When Penrod or any one else heard a shell coming, he or they would drop down on one knee with the pan and the pancakes and duck behind the wall of the window where it was lined with a brick wall.Inside immediately afterwards he would be up again, and going on with the frying ..At last everything was ready, and they organized the transport of it to the more defensible part of the raft.After the next explosion two boys, or even girls would dash acrosss the hundred yards to the defenses on the raft with the pots of steamin g vegetables.Penrod saw them disappear softly.The next shot came, and every one ducked, and then two more trotted off each with a big pan of finest hot milk and reach the defenses before the next explosion.The Penrod and Jack seize the master pieces the big dishes or platters with the broken roasted chickens. A screech A screech from a shell a bending of the knee, and away they raced over the hundred yards of open raft floor.Desperately and defiantly both Jean and Jane stay to finish frying their last eight pancakes, six times they had to drop to the floor--after all it means eight pancakes more, as they were their most favorite dishes.

Then the girls grabbbed the plates with the great pile of pancakes,and squeezed themselves behind the strong tent door.There came a hiss, and a crash and they raced off with the plates clamped against their chests with both hands. They were almost in, and they ran like a deer, swept round a wall of a shed, just as fragments clattered against the shack, and stumbled into the more solidposition, Jeans elbows were skinned, but she had not lost a single pancake not even broken the plate.

When the raft raft was evidently out of range they all started the meal and it was "Some "s dinner, and from noon it lasted till six, for every one else had to have a turn.They drank milk untill half past seven, milk found in the floating houses.The bones of the chickens were thrown into the muddy waters of the flood.Later they were surprised to hear mewing and discovered a cat sitting on the edge of the raft, and wondered how it got on.Jean enticed it over, and gave it something to eat.Still chewing some lay down to sleep.But the ne night was bad.There was an everlastingcoming and going of dangerous wreckage floats floats and four times the raft had been jammed and all the men worked like l eaches to work it loose.Two three three men with their big poles and crowbars w r were always standing on guard. Penrod had been out nin e time himself to watch.About eight oclock, they reached a record for collisions, a house crashes against the raft, and a lot of the house was lying on the raft, with all kinds of household goods, sixteen drowned bodies of men women and children, and a number of animals, and something else which escaped without drowing though still its in its cage a parrot whose "voice "could be heard miles on shore, and to get some quiet they opened the cage and and let it out to go about the raft as it wished. Far on shore now they could see many burning houses appr appearing like immense hellish torches against the night,and the glare from burning forests were easily seen.Shells fromsomewhere lumbered acrosss and crashed down. Munitions blew up in the air far distant and the sensation was like an earthquake and tornado together.On one side on shore the forest had been ripped

away by some mighty explosion.In spite of all the flying fragments which was hurled toward and accross the raft.Almost an hour passed and the shore itself was gradually vanishing under the shells, and the raft and all on board seemed to lead a charmed life.So long as all are well supplied on board the raft and the shells don't fall too near none on board did not worry,and they desired nothing better than to stand stay in on ot until the end of the war.

One of the boyscouts had become so fastidious that he only half done his watching duty, and with his nose in the air when complained about he explained to the others that he was brought up that way, and Gertrude Angeline told him that it would not take her very long to bring him "down" the other way.

.However Penrod was cheerful..On other sides of the raft alons planks were stacked high.Nevertheless Penrod had erected on top a four poster bed complete with blue silk canopy mattress, and two lace covers.And behind it at the head was stowed a bag full of the most choice edibles and other provisions and they had tough ham and sandwitches, conserves, and boxes of sardines. Each boy and girlscout had a box to himself.Some of the men had rescued from a floating house two big blue armchairs as well.Slowly the raft toiled down the flood.Some sing and are told to keep quint for behind them the shells continued to send up fountains of water as they exploded under the surface of the flood.

As the raft continued on through the glare of burning homes and distant forest fires,, those on boardcould see on the landscape lots of fleeing inhabitants trundling what they could save of their goods and chattles along with them in wheelbarrows, perambulator wagons, and on their backs. Their figures were bent their faces full of grief pridfe, despair, haste, and also rasing nation. The children were holding on to their mothers hands, and often often a an older girl or boy lead the little ones, who stumbled onward, and were forever looking back in terror.A few carried miserable looking dolls. And all were silent as they passed, by and whether any saw the raft or not they did not pay any attention to it. The raft continued on, and Penrod was surprised that Hylotars Clandelinians did not fire on a town in which there were still inhabitants.

A few minutes later however the very air screamed, the earth heaved as if there was a volcano erupting and an earthquake at the same time, and a shell landed in the rear very close to the raft.Everyone who were outside scattered or flung themselves down on the flooring, and Jack at that moment felt the unwelcome dizziness leave him which had always before this made him and others do unconsciously the right thing under fire; the thought leaped up with a terrible throttling fear "We are all lost,raft and all" and the next moment there was a explosion so close to the raft an ear splitting thundering crash that shook the air and the next moment something like a blow swept like a whip over his right leg. Jack heard another boy scout near him cryout.

"Quick up Christie"Jack yelled, for they were lying unsheltered on the open exposed part of the raft.He staggered up ad and ran, and Jack kept beside him.They had to get over a hedge of lumber and wreckage which was tossed on the raft by an eruption in the water, and the hedge of debris was higher than the boys stood.A boyscout by the name of Francis seized a chair, Jack braced him upby the leg, and he cried out; but Jack managed to give him a swing and he went flying over.With one leap Jack followed him but fell into the water having been too near the edge of the raft.The faces of the two boys were smothered with weed and mud, but the cover seemed good for the time being.So finding it was not so deep here they waded back toward the raft upto their necks, and whever a shell whistled they ducked their headsunder the water.After they had done this a dozen times they felt exhausted.

"Let's get away to shore cover somewhere or I'll fall in and get drowned" groaned Francis.

"Where has the shell fragments got you?"Jack asked.

"In the calf I believe. "

"Can you Run Francis?"

"I think Iean, I".

"Then out and to shore.We'll signal the raft afterwards."

They made for a ditch that ran into the flood as soon as they landed ashore, and stooping ran along it.Yet the shelling seemed to follow them. The ditch lead toward an abandoned munition shed and if that went up the two boys would be without heads, and so they changed their plans and ran to the shelter of the distant woods. Francis began to drag and he finally said;

"You go Jack, I'll come on after"and he threw himself down, but Jack seized him by the arm and shook him cryin g"Up Francis for if you once lie down you'll never get any further.Quick boy I'll hold you up."

They continued on, and at last reached a small ravine.Francis pitched himself in, and Jack bandaged him up as carefully as possible, finding that the shell wound was just a little below the knee, on the back.Then Jack took a look at himself, and found that his trousers were bloody, and the sleeve of his arm too. Therefore Francis bound up Jacks wounds with his own field and army dressing.Finally it was observed that he could use his leg no longer, not even be able to move it, and both he and Jack wondered how they managed to get that far as it was, and finally believed that fear alone made it possible only, and that indeed the both of them would have run on and on even if their feet had been shot off, they would have even run on the very stumps the bumps.

Jack could however crawl a little, and when he saw the raft close by he called out as loudly as he could, and finally he and the other boy were picked up.He was placed among the wounded Abyssinkilian soldiers, and Gertrude immediately stuck an anti-tetanus needle into the chests of the two wounded boys. At the dressing station on the raft the two boys arranged next ers so that they lay side by side, and on being exam ned the doctor declared that the wounds of the boys was a mere trifle and that they would be able to be up after the shock of their fright was over.Gertrude brought them some good soup which the two boys spooned down greedily.

"How I hope we are satisfied."Francis."Said Jack."This is the third time I got hit."

"Let's hope its the last."Francis replied."Only I wish I knew what I've got."

Jack however complained that his pain increased, and claimed too that the bandages burned like fire, but he was told that the medicine did ith it because it was that kind used to prevent the infection that usually comes from such kind of shell fragment wounds.

"How far above the knee was I hit "Asked Jack of Gertrude.

"About a little over four inches Jack"answered Gertrude."But it is only a hit, and it's not serious."

A few hours later the two boys were taken to the main dressing station. Jack was somewhat frightened, and thought of what he ought to do quickly, and thanked heaven that while wounded if in the Clandelinian camp the rebel surgeons in the dressing stations would amputate on the slightest provocation providing you were not of their side.They would claim that under the pressure of business that it was much simpler than complicated patching.Jack thought of other boys who had been shot up and had died of their wounds, and decided that whatever happens he will not let no one o put him to sleep with ether, even if he had to crack a couple of the doctors skulls. But it was all right for the surgeons only poked around in the wound, and a blackness from the pain came before Jacks eyes.The pain was insufferable, and two orderlins held Jacks arms fast but brave ; Jack kept very quiet, and the doctor finally pulled out a large piece of shell and tossed it to Jack and saying"This is your trophy.."The doctor was pleased at Jacks self control for he was very complimentary of the boyscout as he said;

"Fortunately the shell fragment was not buried very deep.To morrow I hope you will be able to sit up."

Then Jack put was put in heavy bandages, and he was soon back in his own tent with George the German boy.. Jack knew that from the pain he would not get a minutes sleep all that coming night, and it was now only an hour before nightfall since they had been wounded in the last fracis with the enemy seven of the Abyssinkilian soldiers had died already, and Jack remembered when one of them had sang Catholic Hymns after receiving the last Sacraments in a high cracked voice before he began to gurgle.Another had crept out of his cot and crawled to the edge of the raft.Evidently he lay in front of the railing as though he wanted to look at the shore for the last time.All waited for the raft to sail out from shore again, but Penrod remarked it would not go before night and if it arrangedout again it again would be under fire.Explosions still rent the air on the flood and it rained mud and water and debris.Jean who came to be a nurse to Jack looked after him like a mother.Jack felt pretty bad but he did not complain, though his pain made him all the more bitter toward the Clandelin ians.Occassionally Jack handed Jean a stick of chewing gum and gave her also a package full in advance.

"George my boy"said Jack to the German lad"I suddenly think, this is the twentieth time I have been wounded since I became a scout."

"And I am no scout yet."He adds adds."I wish I was."

"yes this is bad luck for all of us.The enemy respects no one I can always see that."

It seemd as if everyone on board the raft had grown sad and melancholy.

Everything because of the spray thrown by explosions was getting sopping wet on board the raft. Jack thanked heaven that all the girlscouts on board the raft knew much about nursing, for all girlscouts do have to learn that in case any of their number are wounded. Jack was finally to reach a new bed and when he was lifted up and put into the bed he al exclaimed "Good Heavens."

"What is it now?" asked Joan.

Jack had cast a glance at the bed as he said those words, h having noticed that it was indeed covered with clean snow white linen, that even had the marks of the iron still on it. And Jacks shirt had gone two months without being washed because it couldn't be washed, and was terribly muddy.

"What's the matter?" Joan asked again. gently. "Don't you get in by yours elf

Jack was in a sweat as he answered; "Why yes, but take off the bed cover first."

"But Jack my boy what for?"

Jack felt like a pig, to think he must get in there.

"Jack hesitated as he answered;" "It will get a little bity dirty."

"That doesn't matter" said Joan "We will wash it again afterwards."

"No, non, oh o not that" Jack" said excitedly "I am not equal to such overwhelming cleanliness."

"When you have just recently been one lying out there exposed in the trenches yesterday surely we can wash a sheet" she went on."

Jack looked at her, she was young, spotless and neat, like every one of the girls here, and Jack felt strange and alarmed to get into such a nice showy white bed. Jack almost felt for moment that she was tormenting him, and that she was going to force him to say it.

"It is only then" Jack trid aga n hoping she surely ought to know what he means.

"What is it then?" she asked.

"Because of the darned "military Cuttins" Jack bawled out at last.

Joan laughed. "So have we all got them. "Get in let them feed on the sheet too once in a while."

Jack then scrambled into the bed and pulled up the covers. An hour later he noticed that the raft was slowly began to move. Jack and Francis w were indeed very restless even though the raft c ntinued to move quietly and easily over the almost waveless flood. Jack could not hardly realize it at all, lyin g on a snow white bed on a raft, and wounded, yet not seriously, only a painful yet no account flesh wound. Francis too was only a trifly wounded. Francis heard Jack call his name.

"Yes, Jack, what is it?"

"Do you know how far Evangeline St Claire is now from here."?

"Over fourty miles I think."

There was lots of noise from the wounded Glandelinian prisoner on board the raft. Jack thought he should go and have a look and see what was the matter with him forgetting his own wounds. It was dark in the tent, and forgetting the bed was higher than the cot Jack groped for the edge, with the purpose to cautiously slide down. But his foot found no suport he began to slip, the leg bandaged heavily was no help, and with a crash Jack lay on the floor.

"Ouch" he cried.

"How did you fall out?" asked George coming out up. "Did you bump yourself

"bumped myself? Oh No indeed. It was only a feather touching my head." Jack growled". My head," A door opened in the rear of the tent, and man came in.

"Why Jack what made you fall out of the bed?" and in her excitement she felt of his pulse, and smoothed his forehead. "You haven 't any fever though Jack. That's good."

"No I didn't?" Jack said.

"Maybe you have been dreaming."

"No. Then Jack told the cause. She looked at Jack with her clear little eyes, and the more wonderful and sweet she was, the more Jack felt respect for her. Jack was lifted up into the bed again. "That is all right" she said. "That prisoner is dying. The doctor cannot save him."

The raft was now traveling slowly . Sometimes it halted, and some of the dead were unloaded. Francis indeed was becoming feverish. Jack too felt miserable and had a good deal of pain, but the worse of it was that apparently there were still lice under the bandages. At least they itched terribly, and Jack could not scratch himself. Jack felt he could never sleep through the days. From the opening in the tent he watched the shore and the forest trees glide quietly past, and listened to the slopping sound of the waters. Again the raft reached or met with a wreckage jam. and Jack heard from one of the guards that Francis will have to be by himself because of his fevers.

"How far does the wreckage jam extend?" Jack asked.

"Only should half a mile?"

"No more battle experiences for me" said Jack to himself. "All of us must stick together."

As the next shell screamed far overhead and exp, exploded like a volcano bursting in the sky, and at such an awful noise Jack held his breath as if he was about to press it up into his head, making his face swellll and turn red. Joan stopped by his bed.

"are you in pain she "she asked getting worried.

"Yes a little." Jack groaned. "But to suddeness of that n oise had b me on ends. If one of them kind of shells lands on our raft we'll all be doing good time in the other world, and I don't mean maybe."

To his surprise she gave him a thermometer and stood waiting. Indeed Jack would not have been under the superion ces of the Vivien girls if he did not know what to do now. These army thermometers were not made only for older people and soldiers, but boy and girlscouts knew what to do with them too. Jack stuck it under his tongue at the proper slant and as Joan finally took it she noticed that it registered 105. She in some alarm took a note of it down on a slip of paper. Jack of course was to remain with the wounded boy Francis. That too was a good piece of luck. She told Jack that among many of the wounded Abyssinkilians were there were a great many bad cases of wounds among them. The afternoon was very much disturbed. No one among the wounded could get rest. Jack tried to doze a little. The tent door stood open because of the warmth and Jack heard voices outside. Some one else too made a lot of noise and Joan explained that the enemy were persueing the raft in boats, and that if the Gl n Glandelinians win the race every one on board will get their full share of "Glandelinian treatment." This news gave Jack an ache in his head and bones.

"Such an absurdy" Jack said. "Just when on ough of us are wounded already."

"All the light guns are on the raft, so we could sink their boats easily." said Joan. Jack at that moment heard some out shout outside; "Don't shoot yet at them out there. One of their boats have a long range gun and they may blow us up."

A Minute later Angeline Jennings appeared. She this time was dressed in a black and white dresses and looked like a beautiful tea-cosy.

"We might as well be saying prayers" she said. "The enemy in the boats are going to overtake us I'm afraid."

"But can't the sails be put up."

"No that would expose us better to their fire." She stood there looking like an innocent celestial. "And it is twelve oclock already."

Francis groanted, as some one outside shouted; "Open fire on the blasted raft."

All of a sudden she appeared to be quite disconcerted. Apparently she could not understand what was happening. She disappeard leaving the door open. Then there came the intonation of A Litany which proceeded. There however was for the moment no sound of a gun but suddenly came a strange coughing sound, and Jack felt savage and said; "I'm going to count up to three. If the persuit doesnt be stopped I'm going to let a grenade fly tward the water even if I am wounded in my leg."

"We too" said George.

However Jacked Jack counted two threeee. Then he opened his gun grenade sack, rose as far as his wounded leg wound permit him to the tent window saw a boat loaded with glandelinians close to the raft, took aim and heaved the hand bomb through the window and it fell into the boats. There was a terrific eruption of water where the boat was, and soon a few men were seen floating and swimming desperately into the water. It no doubt had been blown into a thousandpieces. The praying stopped because of the crash. The swarm of other boats opened fire with rifles in concert.

"Fire offour big gun." One of the boys yelled.

It was shot off, and wit h the sinking of six other boats, the others panic stricken withdrew. Those on board the raft through Jacks desperation had won. Later on the raft inspector praised those who had succeeded in beating off these Glandelinian persuers which for a time had threatened all with dire destruction.

"Who threw the grenade h"? He asked.

Jack answered "I did."

"You, in your condition."?

"Yes I was annoyed because a girlscout came in and said they threatened us so closely, and so I did it.

"what's your name lad?"

"Jack Sanders."

The inspector departed.....

Everyo everyone on board the raft indeed were all curious.

"But Jack why did you throw the hand grenade?It didn't seem very necessary at all."?

Jack grinned.

"But why?"he was asked again.

"Because it was the best way to cause confusion."

All seemed to haveunderstood however.Jack continued"I once got a crack in the head by a glancing bullet and the r therefore I have a depth to pay the Glandelinians.Ever since then whenever I see a boatload of them I let a hand grenade fly, and I have had a grand time of it.Glandelinians who know me does not dare to annoy me?.And none of the Glandelinians do anything to me.I reported the dead because the havoc I creased amused me.If they come back again, I will pitch another."

Jack and his friends were overjoyed.With Jack in their midst, and being the best hand grenade thrower of them allthey could now risk anything anot anything. There were eight wounded boyscouts and some girls in the same tent with Jack. all wounded during the last fire upon the raft.One known as Pedr Pedro a black haired littleyboy, and he had the worst in jury, a severe lung shell w fragment wound.Another James wrankie lay alongside of him, and he had a bad shell wound in the leg which had not looked too bad at first.But tward one oclock in the afternoon he began to call out to the others, telling them to ring a bell for he feared he had a haemorrhage.Jack himself did the ringing and he did it wildly and loudly.Jean nor others gone out for the time did not come. The raft had been under rather heavy fire recently, and no doubt there was too much excitement on the outside to hear the bell.They wanted and then Frankie said;

"Please ring again."

Jack did so again.Still she did not put n in any appearance and it might be evident that she was in one of the other tents full of wounded men.

Frankie are you sure you are reallly bleeding?"Jack asked."If so I'll ring the bell that'll summon Miss Marie Glorinia."

"I'm positive.The bandage is dreadfully wet.Can't somebody make a light.?"

No one however could do that, as the lamp was on the table in the center of the tent and no one could stand up.Therefore Jack continued to ring the bell till his hand and arm befa became numb.Perhaps the others were all asleep. The girlscout Nurses certainly always have a great deal to do and have been almost overworked day after day and certainly do need rest. And added to that was the everlasting excitement from the enemy and his shells.

"Sho l should we explode a grenade outside?"asked Francis.

"No they would think we are fired on."

At last the tent door opened.Mary Stank herself appeared, ad when she percieved Frankies trouble she began to bustle and said almost angrily;

"Why didn't some one shoot off a pistol three times.That would be the signal we know of a person in dager of be bleeding to death.We don't go by any bell."?

"We did ring"said Jack.And none of us here has a pistol."

She discovered that he had been bleeding very badly, and and she boud bound him up.nn

Whole she was at work Jack looked at his face, and saw that it had become sharp and yellow, where before or a few minutes before he had looked almost healthy.Fortunately among the girlscouts there were Red Cross Girls who had recieved much training.They were pleasant, and rath r skillled.Jack thought that the girlscouts doul could be and were more reliable than the grown Red Cross Nurses, and the girlscouts were somewhat more cheerful.And there surely was no one would not who would not do anything for Gertrude Angeline this marvellous girlscout and great professional girl spy who always p spread good cheer throughout l all her followers even when s she can ol only be seen in the distance. And there were others like her, especially Mary Glorinia who was nicknamed Bright Eyed Mary.All the boyscouts would be willin g to go through fire for her.Even the Abyssinkilian soldiers could not complain here, they were treated by the chileren as if the soldiers were their own loving fathers or grown brothers.On the other hand just to think of a garrison h s hospital gave a man the creeps, especilly if you were a prisoner.

Mary Stanck could see that Frankie would not regain his strength. Mary was afraid he would have to be taken away.She said to Jack;

"We won't be able to see him again.We will have to put him into the dead room tent."

That was a large tent in the corner of the raft, and any one on board the raft who was dying fromsickness or wounds were put in there no w.There were six beds in it.It was more convienient too ad and they were put there for the sake of the others so that no one in the sick tents died without attendance.

And too the doctors could look after the patient better too if he or sh was by herself and probably find better means there to bring the patient through after all...

"what about the wounded Glandelinian prisoner we picked up on shore?" asked Jack.

Mary shrugged her shoulders."He's unconscious.We belieg believe he will die too. Later on the boys hadhad a fresh occupant a dand it was one of the wounded Abyssinkilians.These scenes on the raft, of the misery of the wounded and so forth was enough for Jack and he made a significant gesture saying;

"As long as I have been in the army I have seen many soldiers com and go. Often since the last horrible experience on land with the enemy when so many Abyssinkilian soldiers had been wounded boy and girl scouts had sat by the beds or cots and wept or talked softly and awkwardly. Angeline Jennings had hardly gone away from one of the wounded she had attended to, but she could not stay there the whole night though, for she must need rest.That morning she had come very early indeed.Another boy scout who had been wounded in that last adventure of horror had began to grow worst, his temprature chart had looked very bad, and then the stretcher too had been placed to his bedside.He had askd where they were going to take him and the girls had answered"To the Bandag ing tent"and he had been lifted out.But Jean who had been in attendance of him too made the mistake of revoning his tunic from the hook andputting it on the stretcher also, so that she should not have to make two journeys.The boy got scared immediately thinking he was going to be taken to the death tent and tried to roll off the stret her."I'm not going"he had said."I'm getting off here."Jean and Dolores pushed him back,and then he cried out feebly with his shattered lung"I won't go to the death ten t."

"But we are not going there."said Dolores almost severely."Stop this nonsense.you act like a baby.We are going to the tent where the bandaging is don e."

"Then what do you want my tunic for.?"But he could speak no more however. He was hoarse, and agaited, and whispered"I'm staying here."They did not answer but carried him out.As he was going out he tried desperately to raise himself up, his black curly hair swaying, and his eys full of tears."I will not die. I will not die.I'm coming back again."He cried.

Then he was gon e.All others were excited, but they said nothing.At last Jac said;

"Many a boy girl and other soldier of the army has said that same thing. Once a man is in the death ward he never comes through.If there was a chance of coming through they would notput one in there.I remember when I was oprated on in general Vivians army because of a nasty shell wound and vomited for two days.The doctor even then had said my bones would never grow together ag in but they did.I knew of one soldier who had grown crooked after an opration and he had to be re operated on.It is disgusting.War is no joke.I'm often sorfy sorry I ever entered the scout army, but it is far safer than outside with the Glandelinians going crazy with the murders as they do.Among two of the wounded girls there were those with wounds of the feet.Dolores discovered them on her rounds as serious and was very nervous that the force had been so recently depleted.

"We'll soon put that right though."She told them hopfully."The doctor will just need to do a small opration and then you willhave perfectly sound feet again. Enter them down Mildred." They did not want to submit but Dolores warned them;

"Why girls if you let that go you'll have Gangerene.You should know the enemy goes absolutely crazy with joy whenever they heard the news of how many boy and girl scouts are killed or maimed for life.The opration on your feet will be simple and with no pain afterwards, and if you refuse even if Gangenere do not set in you will have clubbed feet, and will have to walk all the rest of your life on crutches.You are here to be cured of your wounds.If you don't submit you'll be cripples.What the Glandelinians want are great losses among us girl scouts, and if that will be so the war will be a glorious time for Glandelinia as it is for all the wicked generals. You take a look down below the raft, there are a dozen fellows hobbling aroun d that have refused to be oprated on.A lot of them will have to go home when we reach a safer station,and now not a single of number of them can walk and have theirplaster legs on yet.Every six months the doctors will have to operate on them and break their bones afresh and maybe never will the opration w be a successful one.You take my word, I've had experience, I've seen a lot ofmisery be cause of others refusing the same thing, but if you do say no, all right.But you'll be fools."

"Yes; but ebetter your feet than my your brains."saidone of the girls. "There's no telling what I will get if I have to go out into the battle fields again.I'll do as I please as long as I can get back home.Better to

have crippled feet than be killed by a Glandelinian shot.At fir"

At first the two girls would not have it done.But Dolores argued so long that in the ed end they wisely consented.They had been afterwards brought back and were with their feet in plaster casts. The truth was they would be able to walk in a week.However it had gone very badly forpoor Francis for they had taken him and had to take off a good portion of his leg, the whole leg being taken off from the thigh.He hardly spoke any more, and once he had said that he had honed a bomb would land on his cot and kill him. In the sick tent where Jack had been placed were two blind soldiers who had their eyes blown out of them.One of them was a poet and the other was a very young musician indeed.Their live s are despaired of One of them had what is kn own as lockjaw.Jack however remembered the day when he once lay in a military hospital among a lot of wounded soldiers, and some of them even prisoners under guard.Day after day had gone by then,with pain fear, groans and death gurgles.In the hospital they had there seven big death rooms, and even they were of no use any more, t for they were too small, and soldiers had died in the very ward Jack had then lain.They went even faster than the very sisters and doctoers and orderlies could cope with the M. Jack did not desire anymore such experience and especially of of the days when he was abl to stand up and go the rounds of the hospital and had been given crutchers to hobble on.He remembered too how he had not made much use of them, for he could not bear the gaze of one of the soldiers as he moved about the room, for his eyes always followed him with such a strange heartbroken look.So Jack always managed to escape to the corridor where he could move about more freely. The poor man had lost both his arms and one leg.Jack remember wh remembered when he went to the floors below he observed sights which never since then had he ever forgotten.There he had seen men with terrible abdominal and spinal wounds, head wounds double amputations, men with sides of faces torn away, or with sides of chests ripped open or without legs and arms combined, eyeless, and with vast holes torn in their throats.On the left side of the wing were as he had remembered the jaw wounds,, with injurds to nose ears and necks, or with the backs of heads torn away.He had seen scores even with whole sides of the body torn away..Hecsaw many also ofblind and lung wounds, wounds in the joints, gowounds in the testicles, wounds in the intestines, men with their legs only stumps, or with arms mangled or torn up.Jack then from now on always remembered in how manyplaces a man could get hit.He had seen soldiers with many machine gun wounds, had seen scores die of tetanus, dysentry, blood posion gangenginere.Many of the wounded had he seen with their shattered limbs henging free in the air from a gallows, while underneath the terrible wounds a besin had been placed into which the pus had dropped, and where every two or three hours the vessel had been emptied, and which gave a horrible decayed smell.He had seen other men lying in stretching bandages with h avy weights hanging from the end of the bed, and in awful pain and miset misery.He had seen intestine wounds that were constantly full of the dread excreta.He had seen even nearly a hundred men who had had their p apendix's cut away by bullets or shell fragments.One surgeon surgeion clerk had shown Jack Xray photographs of comple completely smashed up hip bones, of whole stomaches and intestines torn out of a man, and of crushed and mangled knees, sholdiers, and necks and also of other horrid wounds. Before then as Jack had thought a man could not then realize that above such shattered bodies there were still human faces in which life still goes its daily ro unds.And Jack had seen this in only one big hospital, one single station hulding only three hundred patients, while heknew there were hundreds of thousands of hospitals in Calverin ia, hundreds of thousands in Angelinia hundreds of thousands in Abyssinkile, and a million in Abbiennaia filled with patients of such horrible wounds.

How "BEAUTIFUL" war is he had thought..And indeed how senseless was everything that can ever be written done or thought when such horrors as these were possible.It was all lies and of no account when the culture s of a score of thousand years could not prevent this ocean of blood being pouredout every day, these torture chambers in millions of hospitals, camps and intern ment army hospitals. From his own experience Jack knew that any hospital he had been in showed him and others alone wa what a war reallly was.Jack was very yo n young only nine, yet sincethe war began he knew nothing of life but despair, horror, sorrows, suffering, death, in countless numbers, fear and fatuous superficial y cast over an abyss of worldly sorrow.

Jack could see how the Gladelinians are firmely set against all Christiandom in fury, knowingly,, fool s foolishly, and obeditently.He could see the keenins j keenest brains of Glandelinia inventing weapons to blow up a whole country.And all men throughout the war stricken country on both sides see these horrible things and are experiencing these things.What would

happen sooner or later.?.And he wondered what would become of himself and all his own followers like himself if Glandelin ia should winf.The oldest boyscout in his tent was a Calverinian who would never give him name to any one but his superiors.He was twelve, and had recieved a severe abdomenal wound and the doctors said he would be laid up for a year.However on this day he had been in great excitement for his mother had written to him from thelittle home in Calverine where she lived telling him that she had wavedup a enough money to pay for the fare, and would be coming to see him..But how could she come when floods, the fury of the war and forest fires barred all approaches to where the raft was afloat.Knowing this the boy had lost his appetite, and he even gave away red cabbages and saussages after h he had eaten a couple of mouthfuls. He had allowed n early every one on board.t to see or read his letter, and it seemed probable that every one had already read it a dozen or more time, the post marks had been examined only heaven knows how many times, the address was hardly to be seen any more for the spots of greese and thumb m arks, and in the end what was sure to always happn the poor boy developed a fever.He had not seen his mother for over three years, and in the meantime she had given birth to a child, whom she wrote she intended bringing with her.But something else occupied the boys thoughts.He had hoped to reach Evangeline St Claire before his mother if she could would succeed in getting there for seeing all was well, but when a boy gets to see hismother again after such a long, time if at all poss ible the boy wished her to be where she would be far safer as he knew the enemy was a respecter of no one of the christian side.

The boy had discussed it with many of the girl and boy scouts at a greath length, and in the army there are so secrets about such things as immense perils, and so on.And what's more no one could find any objection to a boys worry about the safty of his loving parents, and those who were able to converse with the boy have told him that he should only pray and have Masses said for that was the only hope so far.

But what was the ys use it seemed,for there the boy was ly n lyin g in his bed with his troubles, and life would hold no more joys for him if he had to forgce this affair of seeing his mother, and the new born baby sister.They tried to console him and promished Gertrude would try to get over this difficulty some way or other as soon as it was possible. One of his girlscout friends very often appeared she being a touseled little thing with anxious quick eyes like an a eagle.Once in a while she wouldmurmur something softly and stand as if on guard in the door way of the tent . It sometime seemd to ter ify her to see that it took the raft so long to reach its goal .

"Well Marja" said the boy, as he gulped down or dangerously with his Adams apple"When do you think we can come to Evangeline St Claire.?"

Her only answer was to slowly shake her head as if to say"We'll never get there." The boy seemed at this very fidgety, and every now and then he would squint across at the other girls or boys most unhappily with his round almost "Banjo Eyes.".The time seemed favorable, the doctors visit was over, at the most there couldn't be one girlscout nurse on duty at present in the tent.At such a prospect the girls had turned a little red and looked embrassed.some of the boys had tried to grin good naturedly and make pooh, pooh ing gestwes of what des it matter.We must get there sometime.The poor boy now shot to a life long cripple, nand expecting the coming of his dear mother and baby sister who knows, because of the flood, forest fires, and enemy whether he really would see her again, and whether the letter had not been written way before the flood began, for the letter was without a date.

.He wanted to see her again, and he was entitled to have hismother too. .Besides the wounded boy could only l ie on his side and the doctor had propped a couple of pillows against his back.Otherwise it was hoped that all would be well.Every one on board the raft always now felt like one big family. Jacks leg too was harnessedu p and made to move that evening.The arm was not so badly injured as supposed and had been only bandaged up with healing salves.There had been so any wounded Abyssinlilian soldiers on board the raft that the bandages were no longer made of cloth but of white crept paper..How long it would take Francis's stump to heal no one could say not even the doctor but Gertrude said that in a few weeks after she hopd she could take himashore to have him sent to some institute for artifical limbs.He did not talk much and was much more solemn that formerly.He could often break off in his speech and stare in front of him and it was feared if so many were not around he would have shot himself long ago in delirum.But now he was over the worst of it, and he looked on while others were looking over a map.

Jack hoped that he would some time now get convalescent leave but Gertrude and the others said to him often that they did not want him to go away

and that parting for even a short time from them would be too hard, and th at they could not get used to that so soon even if in the army.

Since they had been on the raft so long, they had counted the weeks, and days no more.It was winter when Jackfirst entered the christian army as a boy scout and when the shells exploded on that horrible November day of the memoral battle of Delight's Junction the frozen clods of earth had been just as dangerous as the fragments and the shellll materials.Now the trees were supposed to be green again it was late August but fires seared all good trees.To Jack war seemed to be a cause of death like cancer and tuberculosis, like all kinds of hi horrible plagues.The deaths however were far more frequent, more varied and terrible. The thoughts of all seemed as if of clay, they all seemed indeed to be moulded with the changes of the dark smoky gloomy hot days, when they were resting their thoughts were good, but when under fire from shore, their thoughts were dead.Fields of horror within and without.Everyone on board the raft was that way, and distinctions, breeding and education of ay anykind seemed changed, were almost blotted out and hardly re o re a recognized any more. Sometimes they gave an advantage for profitting by a situation, but they also brought many consequences along with them, in that they aroused prejudices which must be overcome.For all on board the rac raft however it was a great loving brotherhood which to all conditions of life arising out of the midst of unspeakable dangers, out of the tension and florornness of death, added something of the good fellow ship of the childrentrying to cheer things up by singing yet of the feeling of solidarity of cow convicts and of the desperate loyalty to one another of men and children comdended to death see ing seeking in a wholly unpathetic way a fleeting enjoyment of the hours of rest as they come.It was this for example that made wounded Jack drink down his soup in such te aring haste sometimes when shell fire upon the raft was reported simply because he felt sure he could not be sure that in another hours time he would still be still alive.Such things seemed indeed to be real problems they were serious matters to all they could not be otherwise.Here every one being on the very borders of death every minute life therefore seemd to follow an amazingly simple course, and that it was limited to what was most necessary, all else would lie buried in gloomy sleep in that lay their survival .

If the boys and hi girls on the raft had not been more to themselves and kept their wits about tne them or been more subtly differenetiated they must long since have gone mad, sea deserted, or have been all destr oyed.All the rw readers too must know that as in a poler expedition every e expression of life must serve only the preservation of existence in the dreadful cold sreas and is absolutely focused on that and nothing else indeed all else is banished because it would consume without necessity all the energies needed. .That was too the only way for all to save themselves when going through this inferno region of water and fire and in the quiet hours indeed, when the puzzling reflection of former happier days, seemed like a blurred mirroe morror projecting beyond them the figures of their past existance, many would often allow all other expressions to like as ins winter sleep, life being simply one continual watch against the meance of terrible death in all forms, from the enemy shot, from the fires, from persuers, from floods, and from plagues, from the attacks of glengiglomenaance that might mistake them for Glandelinians in the dark, all that has it seemed transformed them as into unthnking animals in order to give them smethin g of the weapon of instinct, the horror has reinforc reinforced them with dullness, so that none of themwent to pieces before the unspekable dreadful hellish horror, which would overwhelm them all if they had clear conscious thought it has even awakened in them the full sense of full comradeship, so that they too escape the abyss of solitude out here in this dreadful waste of water, and it did seem to len t them apparently something like the indifference of wild animals so that in spite of all they percieved the positive in every moment and store it up as a reserve against the onslaught of greater horrors than the most terror producing night mares.

Thus as well as like all the christian soldiers all the boy and girlscouts lived a close hard existance of the utmost superficiality, and rarely did an incident of any kind ever strike out a "spark". But then on ce in a while unexpectedly a flame of grevious and terrible yearning would flare up. These are the dangerous moments indeed, for they usually show to all the boy and girlscouts that the adjustment was only artificial, that it was not anything like simple rest, but the sharpest struggle for rest.And in the very outward form of their lives they seemed to themselves hardly distinguishable from lost souls plowing and peddling through the inferla regions, but wherefor the latter can be so for all eternity, because they were so wicked, with the scouts it was however the reverse--they were like being in hell for only to exert tward degeneration and then for a short time only.

And for l for all of the boy and girlscouts to be waking out of a dream overwhelmed and bewitched weirdly by the crowding faces in the glare of the distant forest fires, or in the hight glare of fl flames leaping a thousand feet close by, and the horrid reflections on the water a boy or girl would percieve with alarm how slight was the support again st these dangers, how thin the boundary that divided them from these dangers. ad to themselves they imagined often they were like little flames poorly sheltered by frail walls against the horrid storm of dissolution and wars madness in which they flickered and some times went out by scores in every army a day by day.Then the muffled roar of som dreadful battle becomes an encircling ring, they would seem to creep in upon themselves,and with big eyes stare in the direction of the insane sounds of firing and rattling explodions.Their only comfort at night too would be the steady breathing of their comrades asleep amid the din and horror, as the others awake and not able to sleep again would wait for the approach of morning.

Since the dreadful war had com come into being, every day,every hour, every minute, nay every second, every shell, every death dealing horror had cut ingo cut into the ranks of boy and girlscouts in every christian army in the whole drama of the war, and the two years as Gertrude herself well knew had wasted their numbers rapidly and most harrowingly.Sometimes she fancied she could see it already gradully breaking down around her. She remembered the madness of none of her boyscouts when she still was in the christian armies.This boyscout was one of those who always tried to him tried to keep himself to himself.His misfor tune was that he saw a child slave he desired to r gain in possession of a party of Glandelinian soldiers on horseback.She and others of her followers were just coming back from a scouting tour, and at a turning of the road she saw him coming.In the evening the boy was not to be seen.Then at last he came back and had a couple of brances of mans army pistols in his belt.The girls of course asked him what hispurpose was, but he had made no answer, but laid them on his cot.puring the night Gertrude heard him making a noise, he seemed to be packing.Gertrude had sensed something amiss and went into his tent on being notified.He however made out it was nothing dangerous and Gertrude had said to him"Dont't do anything silly lad.You could not find it possible to rescue that little slave.You'll get killed."

"But, but I can't sleep over it."

"put why are you packing up for.?"

"I might have to go a long ways to get her"He replied evasively, and after a while"I have a beautiful hom and parentx parents in Calverinia, and I can bring her there and she can be by step sister if she has no parents living."

"Perhaps you are committing sucide lad."

He had only nodded but his thoughts even then were only far away.Gertrude always had known that with these kinds of boys; when they see child slaves in the possession of the enemy they always have a curious expression on their faces a ma mixture of yearing and sadness, als and also half stupid and half rapt. Gertrude had in oder to turn him away from his strange thoughts she had asked him to lend her his prayer book, and to her surprise he gave it to her without a murmur.That t.her in deed was somewhat suspic ous suspicious for with his praying articles he was always tight fisted.so she stayed awake and had other boys wa watching him.wothing had happe jed that time or night however and in the morning he was as usual, and she suspected that apparently he knew she had been watching him.But the next evening he then was gone.Gertrude had noticed it and said nothing in order to give him time,for maybe with the help of God hemight get through the enemys lines andsecure her. Various soldiers had already made these successes. But at roll call he was missed.A week after Gertrude and even her followers in general Vivianslines had heard that in his attempts to rescue her he had been caught by the Glandelinians, those desp- icable Omarian Kurds.He had secured her, and had succeaded in gettingout of the enemys lines, but had encountered a scouting Patrol of these dangerous Glandelin ians, the case of escaping was hopeless of coursw, and of course he did everything else just as idiotically.All of the Glandelinians knew of the ladspurpose, and since then she had never heard of that lad, whether he was court marshalld by the Glandelinians and shot, or whether they sent himaway to one of the Glandelinian island prisoners places untill the end of the war.But the Glandelinians usually do the former.

Tward afternoon things for all on board the raft broke out in other ways these dangers, these pent up things, as from an overheated boiler. tIt will be enough to tell how many more of the Abyssinkilian soldiers of Gertrudes escortin g force met their end and som more boy and girls besides.

Tward the late afternoon the whole force on board were in the midst of a

unspeakable horror.A portion of their raft had been shot to p e pieces, and Glandelinians from shore andc in hundreds of boats had rushed to the attack fiercely, it seemed as if those on board the raft had only elastic lines of battle as on this large craft there was no such practically anykind of protect ion as in trench or breastworkwarfare.When after attack after attack of the Glandelinians in boats and gasoline propelled rafts have been waged again and again, there remained a broken section of the forwardportion of the raft, a greater number of dead and dying on board and a broken line of Abyssinkilians , a number of boats sunk, a swarm of dead and wounded strewn on the shore, men by scores floundering in the water, and a bitter struggle from one point of the raft to the other when before repulsed the Glandelinians had succeeded in gaining a foot hold on the raft.Gertrude Angelin e, with Angelin e Richon, and some other girls were in the center of the raft behind a barricade of sandbags ,the Glandelinians again in boats were rushing down upon the raft ohl iquely, they were flankin g the raft this time, and working in behind it. To attempt to paddle away from the foe was futire futile for they were s urrounded.They would not surrender, fog smoke from fire, and the smoke of battle hung over them like a curtain, no one would even recognize the thought of giving themselves up, and no one wanted to, indeed they did not seem to know themselves at such a critical moment.Gertrude heard the explosion of handgrenades on the forward part of the raft and comin g closer to her point of protection.One of the machine guns on the raft swept over the semicircle in font of her and a two boat load of men were swept to death.But behind the attack was crashing nearer, and to make matters worse shells from batteries on shore were crashing and e ploding everywhere, some on the very raft.A few minutes more and they wound be lost.So terrible was the situation, that Gertrude even prayed for the well horned for succor from Blenglglomenean Creatues but none were in sight anywhere.Then at closest range, a few more machine guns burated forth and all on board the raft were opning fire with rifles andpistols.Jean a the brave girl she was had fetched the others of the machine guns even at exposure to herself and though the counter attack came from over behind, the raft for the time being was set free from the Glandelinians, as a score of boats were sunk with all on boardAfterwards while the foe still attacked, and others on the raft were lying in comp ratively good cover, one of the boys reported that a couple of hundred yards distant a great long range machine gun was being trained on the raft fromshore.

"Where f"asked another of the boys.The others pointed tward shore, and described the gun to him.The poor foolish boy went off tward the edge of the raft to try and shoot off the gunners and prevent the use of it.Other times he would not have cared, he surely would have been reasonable.But he had just recieved news by a mysterious telegram that he was an prohan, his parents having been drowned in the disaster.The girls and boys tried to prevent him, but he went off grimly and all they could say to him was"You are mad. For these cases of war madness becomes sometimes dangerous if one is not able to fling the man or boy or girl to the ground and hold him or them fast.And this boy was overgrown even for his young age, and the most powerful of all on the raft.It seemed evidently he was qh absolutely mad for he had to pass through the barrage of glandelinian rifles sweeping the raft, but this strange horror which had lowered somwhere above all had struck him and made him mad.It has affected others so that they either began to rave, or to run away, and even shout at everybody thinking they were Glandelin ians,, there was one man known to Jack himself who had even tried to dig himself into the wall of a building with hands feet, and teeth, and afterwards to cry and bawl like a baby when somone mentioned that it would not snow, and when it snowed he would cry because it was not raining.And he had lost all his life savings, home and his whole family and parents comained.The boy who meant to finish off the machine gunners on shore was carried off with two wounds in thehelvis, one in the thigh and another in the neck,, and two of the soldiers who carried him were killed, and the other who managed to bring him from under fire g ot a bullet in the cheek and side of the neck while doing itAnother boyscout James Nebbs too was dead. Some Glandelinian sharp shooter shot him from the shore in the stomach.He lived for fifteen minutes only, quite conscious but in terrible pain.Before he died he handed over hispocket book to Jack, and bequea h equeated him his photograph and hom adress asking Jack to write to his mother.Taking advantage that the attack was falling back, the paddlers started to work like mad to get the raft under way, while others trid desperately to hoist sail to make the raft be able to outdoe the launches as there was a favorable wind blowing. But there were too many Glandelinians on shore ovdr there, and all who tried to work hoisting the sails were shot as fast as they rushed to the posts.There were too many guns on shore.And also many on board the raft were becoming emaciated and starved.Their remaining foood was bad,,, and mixedupwith so much

substitute that it made every one ill, and some had even died of dysentry and what the people would have thought at home to be shown these grey sallow yellow, miserable, wasted faces on the raft, these bent figures of the men esped especially from whose bodies the colic wrings out the blood, and who with lin lips trembling and distorted with pain would grin at one anotherand say;

"We have this thanks to the Glandelinian skunks."

Some of the artilleey on board the were had been already fired out, they on board had too few shells, and the barrels of some were so worn that they only shot off uncertainly and even scattered so widly as to fall on those aboard the raft.To make matters worse they had too few horses many having been killed. The boys and girls swaltering from the dreadful heat produced from the forest fires were in need of rest, some were so ill they could not now carry a pack but merely knew how to die.By scores, and they did so day.However the Glandelinians must have been crazy for bent on trying to capture those on board the raft they simply went on, and seemed to allow themselves to be shot down. A single hand grenade thrown by George the German boy who too was hit and seriously wounded destroyed two boats at one explosion.

In the last attack, a company commander of the boy scouts fell, and this was Gertrude Aide-decamp Goneg.He was alwaysone of her faithful brave boys who for her sake had been foremost in every hot place during the war .He was in the army for two years without being wounded, so that something had to happen in the end.Again and again the rafttt was surrounded,and even from some place the smell of petroleum or some kind of stinking oil blew across with the fumes of powder.Then they began to realize the cause.Two Glandelinian soldiers with flame throwers were seen, one carrying the tin on his back the other having the long hose and nozzle in his hands from which the fire and blazing oil would spout.If they who too were in a boat got so near that they could reach the raft all on board would be done for, and the raft could n ot retreat yet.

everyone started to open fire on them alone, but the boat began to work nearer, and nearer, and things began to look very mad bad indeed. Geroege gertrudes aidedecamp was lying behind a matress firing at the foe but when he saw that no one could escape because under the sharp fire all must make the most ofthis cover on the raft, he tooks long range rifle, crawled from his secure position and lying down propped on his elbows, took aim, and f red fired.At the same moment a bulllet smacked into him, the Glandelinians had succeeded in getting him.Still he lay and aimed again,, once he shifted as a grape shot exploded some years yards from him,and then again he took his aim, at last the rifle cracks.Groege then let the gun drop and said;;;"Good""" and slipped back behind his cover.The hindermost of the two flame throwers was hit, he fell from the boat, the hose slippped away from the other felo fellow, and the fire squirted about on all sides driving the boats out of range but first catching a few and a score of men were burned to death.Geroege had however a chest wound, a fatal w one.Then after a while a shell fragment from shrapnell washed away his chin, and the same fragment had sufficient force to tear ope open the side of one of the girlscouts who was lying close by and also tearing open her hip.She groaned as she supported herself on her arm, she bled quickly, and no one could help her as she was far beyond aid.Like an emptying tube after a couple of minutes just after the enemy gave up the at tack finally she collasped and was dead.

After this frightful fray, and when all the dead were disposed of and the fresh w number of wounded comfortably placed some one said;

"From what the telegraphic news is, about the results of the war and the flood and fire, and massacre horrors Galvarinia s ought to be empty soon and the Glandelinians able to take possession.Some of us on board here have given up hope that som day rescue or our being able to reach our destination may come.We should never think so far.Any of us like just recently today can stop a bullet or a shell fragment, can either be wounded or get kill ed, or if only wounded a hospital will be our first goood stop.There if they do not amputate us we will be at least discharged as unfit for fur ther service. There were many good doctors, and there were and are lots of them all the same but they are all in the armies and cannot go to take care of disaster victims."

"Yes "said another boy,"there are millions of such stories of these horors, but they are mostly far more bitter."

"All the same"Said Jane Melfort ,they all have nothing to do with plagues, dysentry and the like, and in the Glandelinian armies too there is a great deal of fraud, injustice, and baseness tward all of us.Is it nothing therefore that regiment after regiment of Christian Calvarinian soldiers following one army after another returns again and again to the ever more hopeless struggle that attack follows attack along the weakening, retreating crumbling line, and that because of the fires, and floods no troops from Angelin ia and Britannia can come to their help.From a mere mockery the Glandelinian

armies have become like some terrible monster, which even our beautiful andpowerful Blengiglomnean creatures have found it finally impossible to cope with.The Glandelinian armies are like some monsterous armoured wild insane Blengiglomnean creature, and in attacks they come rushing on in long lines in thickness s to be called tidal waves, and more than anything else with their frightful devil yells, and their methods of fighting embody for us the realhorrors of the war."

"And what makes it worse, half the time the Calverinian armies do the see the Glandelinian guns that bombad them." "Said Jean"The attacking lines of the enem are men like they, but these Glandelinian batteries are like machines, they thunder on as endless as the war, they are annihilation, their crashes roll like the steady noise of the sea waves a perfect endless chain of roaring smoke ble belching armour clad invulnerable steel long throated iron beasts whose shells squash the dead and the wounded, t ar the coun try side up in volcanic like eruptions, we children even shrival up in our thin skin before their thunders, against their colossal size and weight the arms of our soldiers are sticks of straw,and our hand grenades only puff fire crackers.Shells, Glandelinian gas clouds, and flotillas of batteries, shattering, starvation, death, horrors of big fires, floods, might explosions, massacres of children, plagues, dysentry, influenza, thy typhus, murder, burning, and horrible horrible death.Horrors of trenches scores of miles long, hospitals, the common grave, there are no otherpossibilities.In some ways we are only a little better off than the soldiers.

To those on board the raft the last two months of June and July had passed by, and now it was quite close into August. Thi s summer had been the bloodiest and the most terrible so far and truly without a mistake from Mildred for she absou absolutely was right a most disgraceful unsuccessful one for the christian cauxe cause. The horrible days past and even present to one stood like angels of hell in black and flame incomprehensible, above the tremendous seas of fire, smoke, water, horror and annihilation.Thousands of cities looked like those in France during the World War in Southern Calverinia alone, cities never touched by flood too, and every man boy and girl on the raft knew that thus far the country was absolutely losing the war entirely.Not much was said about it, wildreds words were continually disputed, but all christian armies were falling back, this was proved by testimonies of the hgenerals themselves, fair Evangeline St Claire, partly ruined by flood and fire, was further e menanced by a great Glandelinian army moving on it under impregnable Federal, other christian armies had not been able to attack or make defense again after the big and terrible carnage at Headrick Junction or Cedernine Creek, these armies have no more men, and no more ammunition and armies expected could not arive yet in time because of flood and fire.Still the resistance against the impossible was going on, the dying went on.

SUMMER OF NINETEEN THIRTEEN----- Never has the cause of Calverinia and her sister states in its niggardness seemed to the christian cause so desirable as it was now, all the beautiful scenes of natures, beautiful farms, beautiful forests, beautiful fields of unusally bright flowers the red poppies and Blue bells and other flowers in the meadows, the beautiful seas of green waving grass, the black mysterious trees of the twilight, the flowing waters of beautiful streams, and lakes, the beautiful towns and cities, thousands of railroad lines, all gone gone,apparently forever.Now there is thousands of miles of water, in the west and Middle Calverinia, in the east, perdition in smoke and flame for hundreds of miles was raging, flames were defouring the very air, and frightful plagues were ravaging the country as fiercely as the disasters and thousands were dying every day.

Summer of 1913.---Never was so much silently suffered as in the moment when soldiers recovered from their wounds in battle departed once again to their respective commands, many though not to find their armies because of fire and water.Wild tormenting rumors of a further and incomprehensible increase of the horror and the wilder spread of the forest fies fires were in the air, they laid hold on the hearts of all in the same fashion as when a mother looks down on her only dying child, and makes the return to the front more discouraging than ever.

SUMMER OF NINETEEN THIRTEEN.---- Never among many soldiers who learnd of their loss of familes wives and brothers, and sisters or parents was life more bitter andmore full of horror than in the hours of bombardment, facing fierce assaults, when the blanched faces lay in the dirt andmud and the hands clutch at the one thought"No, no, I cannot be now.Not now at the last moment. We must win if it is even a miracle.

Summer of Nineteen Thirteen.---All the breath of hope that swept over the scorched fields gone, raging fever of dread of what was to come, raging fever of impatience to be avenged on the enemy but to recieve r the direst results of the enemys vengeance instead, horrors of disappointment of the

most agonizing terror of the millions of death dealing disasters followed by the insanate question"Why.why do not the world make an end of Glandelinia horror.And why do these rumors rumours of an increase of the disasters and their fearful numbers by scores fly about?What floods now are threatening Angelinia Agathia and sweeping parts of her away with a loss of many thousands in drowned? How far is the inundation going to extend.And why are the forest fires menancing the city of Evangeline St Claire?

Truly this story even proves it Mildreds disputes on the way the war is turning out is absolutely right.At all points now in the war zone there were now so many Glandelinian armies under great reliable commanders here in Calverinia and they were now so sure of themselves that they gave chase toone single christian army just as though they were hares.For every one christian cavarly division there came at least five Glandelinian cavarly squadrons as immense as a sea of horseman, per one squadron.For one hungry wretched, badly smitten and diseased christian army of infantry come ten of the enemy, fresh and fin, healthy and full of pep and spirit, and well supplied with war mutions.For one christian army loaf of bread hard as good wood there was all the food that a rich man could desire for all the soldiers of the foe armies, nay not that rather, but one Glandelinian regiment even had enough food to even waste.The Angelinians claimed they were not beaten, for as soldiers they were far better experienced, and more better fighters, and were of stronger and more enduring men, they claimed they were simply crushed and driven back by overwhelming and superior forces who do not fight fair.Behind the armies lay dry weather, fearful heat, raging forest fires that no one will believe of what I do write whether it came true or never did so, hot dust earth, lack of pure water to drink plagues raging Rabies rampant among all animals, and among men women and children, dysentry by hundreds of thousands, grey dying, and all the horrors of sickness that is known to Medical Science at once, and a tenfold million other unspeakable horrors making Calverinia a hell indeed.If the soldiers go on a march, their unifor uniforms are soaked with sweat, and they remain wet all the time untill stopping to rest, and and then take sick.Frustrations from heat in the army is as frequent as those falling in battle and many die.Those who will wear highboots tie small sand bags around the top so that in case the army marches over a burning area of country burning ash would get into the feet.The rifles are getting toheavy to carry, everything is heat, smoke, and hot winds, the earth one dark smoking and watery inferno, the yellow pools are red with streams of blood and into which the dead wounded and survivors sink slowly down. The storm of war lashes everywhere simultaneously, andout of the confusion of smoke water and fie and grey and yellow, the hail of shell splinters whipped forth the child like cries of the countless wounded, and too in the night shattered life groans wearily to the dreadful silence. S nce forest fires began there s is no sunshine, sometimes no daylight, the whole east is a smoking hells pit, scores of big high forested mountains look like Krakatoas in eruption, the hands f the soldiers and faces too are black and their eyes pools of ruin.No one seems to know whether they still are alive.

On the raft where the child scouts are the heat sinks heavily like a jelly fish, moist and oppressive, and one the late afternoon of that horrible day while out scouting, while bringing in food Jack ganders falls.He and Jean were alone.She did what she could to bind up his wounds, and finds the shins of his leg seemed to be smashed.It has also got the bone, and Jack groaned desperately.At last, just at the last"Jean tried to comfort him.Who knew how long the sad horror would go on yet.

"Don't worry "she said"You are saved now.But you'll never walk on that leg again."

The wound began to bleed fast.Jean did not know what to do.She knew that Jack could not be left by himself while she tried to go to the raft to get help, and shells of high explosive fury were exploding too often and dangerously close to the right and left.The whole country during this battle of Sanitary Creek was under fire.She hoped Jack was not very heavy, and so after some desperate effort she took him upon her back, and started off tward the raft with her.Bang, crash, and hells bang goes the shells and she had to drop her burden to dodge the splinters every time, untill finally one gets her in the shoulder.Still she struggles onward and twice she rested.He suffered acutely on the way, and she too with her shoulder.They did not speak much and could not,she had opened the collar of her tunic to relieve the pain of her shoulder and breathed heavily, she was sweating, and her face was swollen with the strain of carrying.All the same she urged him to lets contin ue on, for the place was dangerous, and four hundred feet away, there arose something like a monsterous eruption cloud as if from a volcano followed by an earsplitting crash that took her breath away and made her feel the shock.

"Shall we go on again Jack?"

"We must Jean or we'll be killed here."

"Then come Jack."

She after an effort raised him up, he stood on the uninjured leg and supported himself against a stone.Jean after hard work managed to take up the wounded leg carefully and easily, then he gave a jump and she took the knee of the sound leg also under her arm.The going was more difficult. A score of trees rose in the air from an explosion, the whole country seemed to go up, and the sound was maddening.She went as quickly as she could for the blood from Jacks wounded leg was pouring to the ground .Neither could shelter themselves from the explosions.Finally again they lay down in a deep ravine to rest.She bound up her own wounded shoulder and gave Jack some brandy from her water bottle.

"I'm sory tosay Jack"she said at last with tears in her eyes"We are going to be seperated at last but we'll meet I hope in the other world.I don't know about your Jack but I know my wound is mortal.I can feel it."

He was silent and looked at her.

"Doyou remember Jack how we first had our foolish quarrel and when I slashed you with a whip.Yet we have become the best of friends, and now will have to go.You to go home and I to Heaven I suppose..?"

He noddded.The anguish of solitude rose up within the little girl really wounded unto death.When Jack realised that Jean would be taken away he felt as if he would not have but one friend left.But his wound unknown to him really was more mortal.

"Jean"he managed to gasp at last"I don't believe hope not your wound is mortal.In any case we surely must see one another again even if it is in heaven if you do die."

"Do you think I will recover from this deep shoulder wound?"she asked bitterly.

"With rest it ought to get better.Your shoulder bone is all right .But it may be crip pled a bit."

"No I know I'm done for.The shot had penetrated my back under my shoulder." I won't even live till to morrow."

Jack was very miserable it seemed to him that it was impossible that Jean, his closest friend, whom he knewas no other girlscout, Jean whom he had shared all these days, as if she were his own sister---it seemed impossible that he would not see her again."

"In any case Jean, in case I do recover give me your address at home.And here is mine.I will write it down for you."

Jack wrote her address in her pocket book.How forlorn Jack was already though he still sat beside her.He felt like shooting himself so as to be able to go with her.Suddenly Jack gurgled, and turned green and yellow.

"Let's go on"he stammered.

Despite the pain in her shoulder Jean jumped up, eager to help him and took him up, and soon started on a run, a slow and steady pace so as not to joly jolt his leg too much.Her throat was marched, her tunic was soaked in the blood from her own shoulder, everything danced red and black before her eyes but she staggered on dogedly and pitilessly, and at last reached the boat and then helping him in, rowed to the raft.Then on the raft she dropped down on her knees but still had strength enough to fall on the side where Jacks sound leg was.After a few minutes she straightened herself up again.Her hands and legs trembled and she began to feel dizzy and faint.She had trouble in finding her water bottle to take a pull and her lips trembled as she tried to drink.But she smiled to herself. She was sure now Jack was saved.After a while however she began to sort out the confusion of voices that fell on her ears. "You have gone through all this for nothing."said George the German boy.

She looked at him however without comprehending. Seeing her stare she poin he pointed to Jack and said again"Why Jean our friend and best companion is stone dead."

Jean did not seem to understand him.She finally found voice to say;

"He has only been hit in the leg.He could not bleed to death so soon ."

Then the orderly came up with Gertrude.Jean turned round.Her eyes were still dulled, the sweat broke out on her again, it ran over her eyelids, and her shoulder felt paralyzed.She wiped the sweat away and peered at Jack who lay so still.

"He has only fainted"she said quickly.

Gertrude looked at her and said;

"I myself know better than that Jean.He is dead, I'll lay any money on a bet for that and you too the orderly says is mortally wounded."

Jean only shook shook her head.

"Not p as possiblw.Only ten minutes ago I was talking to him.He has fainted."

Jacks hands as she felt them were stillll warm, so she passed her arm under his shoulders in order to rub his temples with some water.she gave a start for she felt her fingers become moist fwith something sticky.As she hastily drew them away from behind his head, she saw they were bloody. Jean now realized the fact. On the way without her having noticed it, a shell splinter had entered Jacks head.She found that there was just only a single small hole, and that it was only a tinty stay shell splinter.But it was enough.Jack was dead. Slowly she got up.

"Would you like to take his pay book and things too"Gertrude asked her.

"No"she answered."I'm done for too."

Did Jean survive?Does Miracles sometimes occur.The morning after the dreadful event after counting her losses Gertrude still wiped the tears from her eyes as she stood in the midsts of those grouped about her.All was as usual.Jean dead, Jack dead, her Aide-de-camp dead, Angeline Jennings severely wounded, only five hundred surviving Abyssinkilian for soldiers out of her once 10,000 and two hundred bodies laied to a watery grave and horrors upon horrors still menacing her. Then she knew nothing more.

It was the saddest day in the year for the remainder on the raft. There were not any of the old well known boy and girl scouts left.Gertrude Angeline Angelin e Angeline Richne, the two Jennings girls, Mildred Maxwell , Glorinia and Mary stanck were the only ones left out ofthe girls, and all the boys were gone except Penrod, and only five hundred soldiers left.Jane Melfort too was dead.Every one of the soldiers talked of further horrors and of the tragedy being an example to the survivors.All waited in sorrow and dread the future.Gertrude and Penrod were unusually silence.If only all the horror had proved to be an illusion, then the sorrows and dread would break up, hope could be again high, it could not be taken away again without an upheaval.But all was not an illusion.Gertrude desired rest because she had swallowed a bit of some kind ofposion by mistake and was sick, and she sat on the raft the whole evening as it was gliding westward down the flood, she did not or care where unless it sank, only to escape from that fatal shore.Other horrors of the war was coming soon she knew that with an aching heart, she believed it too now with Mildred that all for the country and its cause was lost.It was a fatal 10th day of August.She was tempted now to abandon everything shoot the raft straight northwestward, keep it on that course at all costs, and securing some point of vantage ,abandon the expedition pack up and go home.Girl and boy scouts could do that at will if they wanted to, but the soldiers could not.Here her thoughts began to wand r wander.All the scenes that met her, all that now flooded over her were now only w sad broken hearted feelings, loss of the love for liv life---greed of reven ge on the foe, hate of all Glandelinians, yearning to get even for her loses of dearest little friends intoxication of repeating the horrorupon the Glandelinians.But no aims.Had she and all her followers not left the army under Concontin An Aronburg to face all this suffering amid the strength of the dreadful war experiences all might have avoided the unleashed storm of wars death and suffering.Those who would get back would be able to report of their hearts broken out, weary, burned out, rootless, ad without hope.She trdd to make communications with Jennie turner to tell of harmishap and could not yet get any telegraphic connections.she was afraid the flood was so extensive that she would never find her way to any christian army any more.

And Gertrude felt sure Jennie turner would never understand the situation written in the letter, and in the end all shall fall into miserable ruin.For the generation of armies that grow up before, already had been whipped or wiped out, and many soldiers who were wounded to be cripples and who would return to their old occupactions only to find all gone before the flood or fire, will find no home to go to, no family to cherish.They will have to be therefore superfluious to even themselves, they will grow older, all will be bewildered, the many years will pass by, and in the end they'll remember how the whole nation had fallen into absolute devastation and total ruin.

Gertrude thought at first perhaps that all this scene was her own madness and dismay that she had not suffered such a loss of friends, dismay which would fly away at the awakening, that she had dreamed of this horror, and that it had never happened, that Jean and Jack, and all the others still lived.It cannot be that they have gone, the yearning the sadness made even her blood unquiet, the unknown horrors of the future, the perplexing, the oncoming new disasters, the thousands of faces of her murdered friends, the meled cies from music it cannot be that this had all vanished in bombardment of the raft and shore in despair, in brothals.Here beyond on the shore where there was no fires the trees showed gay and dark the berries of brush stood red among the leaves a country road ran white out to the sky line and a sound which seemed like the hum of beehives came like the rumours of peace which awakened her from her trance.

She stood up to look around.She was very quiet.It was no dream.Let the months and years of the future come, they would bring her nothing more, they could bring her nothing more.She for the moment stood alone by the cots of the fallen and dead girlscouts, Joan, Jane, and Estrabrook, and others, and so without hope, she stood before them.The life that had borne her through these years of unsp akabl unspeakable horror was still in her hands and eyes, but she felt as if she was dead Her best girl and boy friends fell August 10th 1913 on a day that was so horrible around the raft, and on shore.When Jane had been hit, a part of her head had been torn off and she had fallen forward and lay on the raft as though sleeping.Turning her over Gertrude had seen that she could not have suffered long, her face had an expression of calm as though almost glad the end had come.

Indeed among all the survi survivors on the raft, there was a general feeling of depression, after the disaster had so frightfully and tragically depleted their numbers and caused the deaths of even those whom maybe even the reader would never think would have fallen.This story however sad to say runs as if naturally happening and no one knows who's to go next.It could be even Gertrude, nay even the Vivian Girls could be singled u out to all of them.This time the raft was kept far out at the water with hardly the land in sight.When all had been present and they had first constructed the raft, and embarked on it for the trip, they all had started in the highest spirits, and whatever private regrets may have been felt at the parting from friends, and relatives there had not been then, and the troops of soldier escorts and the boys and girls had marched gaily down to the point of embarkation.That was in July late.But this was not the case now, for of the survivors there was not one from Gertrude down to the survivors of the private sc u scouts but felt that by the enemy they had been deprived of the best friends they had and companions whom they felt was as great a sacrifice to part from as if they had been sisters and brothers or even para parents, and that because of the di saster and the tragedy they too had been ce deprived of the chances of ever getting back to the christian armies, and that they were in a sort of exile from the very world, and cruising against their will on the immense dreadful lake known in Dantes Hades before you reach the inner hell.Lots of baggage and privisons had been lost, and though still able to float the raft was badly wrecked.

"We have two good fine guns anyhow."Gertrude said to Penrod through her tears as the boat carrying the dead ones to shore was again along side the raft for bording.Now to makeour lot worse we woj won't even have comfortable quarters on board of the raft even if we do have decent weather."

"Yes it takes a war like this to make our long past voyage anything but pleasant under the circumstances"said Penrod dismally.

"Oh it's no more use thinking any more about all this."Dolores trid to say cheerfully."We will have to make the best of matters, and hope that we shall soon be back to the christian lines again, if not I dare say we must then have to take all the consequences.Anyhow after this there is heaven you know.And with your knowledge of German George Zimmerman, you will make a great hit amo g among the Vivian Gils."

"I surely did not think of that"Geruege laughed, though not from the heart. "But no one can say to any of us that the prospect is a cheering one.I promise all of you that if I get the chances to become one of your boyscouts I'll do the best I can for you.Well here we al are alongside.When are we going to sail off shore again."

"You must ask the weather man."Dolores replied."At present there is not a breath of wind stirring and from the looks of the smoky sunless sky I see no change of a change for the present.We'll have to paddle. Good thing it is getting dark.We have been surely hadi handicapped.Day after day has passed, not a breath of wind had stirred the floooed water, and we seemd to have prayed in vain for a breeze.If there had been a breeze our horrible tragedy would not have occured.We cannot now even get the latest news.And this is little enough.I havepicked up a piece of paper on shore the day before yesterday which stated that it was known that all the nation has refused to recognize Glendelinia as a civilized nation, and that by the whole world a great coalition against h r her has formed. There was rumors that Evangeline St Claire city is likely to be the scene of operations.The paper stated that already several reinforcing armies of the enemy had been stationed near there, and three or four more were already under orders to move forward for that part of the country.It was reported that all our states were taking more immedi w immediate steps to arm.All the militia had been calledout at home and high bountis were offered for volunteers from these regiments into line. Recruiting by the wholesale is goi on vigoriously all over the nation.Horses for caverly are being bought up and effcrts made to place all home regiments on a war footing."

All this to further their distress was tonyalizing news to all on board the raft.Gertrude before this had written by telegraph to her relatives in Pandora Calverinia, begging them to urge upon the surthoritias the folly of allowing things to go so long inactive at such a moment, w when the country was so widly devastated, and the enemy apparently having won the war so far already though it was still raging.But little was heard from this, her letters never reached her friends and at any moment a change somewhere in the situation might place themall beyond the possibility of recovering.Three weeks of horror had passed, and there had been no signs of a change.That morning before there had been hustle and movement and joy and laughterwon board the raft, and even the soldiers had been glad that they were going to make a good trip down the flood once more.That morning there had been a slight breeze, the sails had been loosed from their gaskets, and the sound of the drum and a band struck had struck up as the cas capstans had been manned, the soldiers even lending a hand at the bars and the chains came clanking in fro the has hawsers.Now all was ruin and a d terrible loss among them.Gertrude had been about to state that she was about determined to give up the expedition, when George said; "There's the wreck of some vessel coming in round that curve of land.But it seems there are men on board.I wonder if the attack upon us will be renewed."

"Heaven help us if that is so."Said Gertrude.

"The vessel is signalling to somepoint on the land."Pen od said as he watched flags run up on thw signal staff on the summit of some rise of land"And men below there are on shore answering."

A moment later a gun was fired, and a signal bomb burstod in the sky, flashing something like stars of all colors and a coming out with fier y streamers like a fan.

"That' s to call our attention" I believe this time"Penrod said again taking his glasses and directing it to the shore."Yes there is a number which us boyscouts know flying on that signal flag.We are answe signalld by friends on shore.Get the signal book Geo Go George.James Glod run up the answering pennant.I believe it is some sort of a warning for us."

As soon as this asceded the flags on shore were suddenly lowered, and fresh ones w re ran up, followed by the flashing of colored lights in the sky as darkness was setting in.

Give me those papers George.We are advised to go no further westward or northward as dangerous enough to ceuse us annihilation lurks far ahead." Penrod read aloud.

No one said an ything to this, even though for a few minutes because of so many strange lights on shore great excitement prevailed.As soon as the raft had dropped anchor boats rowed off to her but nothing further was learned by those on board.The only thing was that christian armis had again defeated the enemy in b attle at Sanitary creek, and some troops had been sent by Vivianla who knew thelocation of the raft with dispatches andinstructions to the captian of the troops of cavarly to go down t the shore and signal immediately to them that they must not go ahead with their raft.That night all remained awake and on guard on the reft. And this region was hardly the spot which Gertrude would have approved to have stayed.When she learned further deatils as to what was going on at Evangeline St Claire she did not approve of that place as the scene of operations for the dis disasterous Cedernin e campaign as still fresh not only in her own mind but in the minds of all the people and armies of the nation.And Gertrude to her own idea would moreover have chosed a campaign in which armies would have fought without being compelled to try and ford over stretchs of this flood.Still too many could have recalled the great christian success at Cedernine, and although every telegraph mail from Jennie Turner had recently brought news of the tremendous efforts Federal through Manleys help was making to concentrate great armis at or against Evangelin e St Claire, and in the manner or of the manner in which the veterans of his own l earlier and former wars had responded months ago to the call there was not a doubt of Federals success in breaking through.Gertrude was sory now that she had allowed Jennie Turner to go away.She knew well enough how to get the raft always beyond danger, and since Jennie was gone Gertrude had only met disaster upon disaster, and tragedy upon tragedy. And besides she had been somewhat puzzled by many of her letters since she had gone away.They had been almost entirely devoted to her doings on the raft, and Jennie had said very little about herself beyond the fact of her success in locating the lost plans.She had answered Gertrudes questions as to what was transpiring within the christian camps in code form, but for safty sake these references had been short, and she had said nothing about the details of her daily life, what she was doing within the christian lines, whe whether the Vivian Girls had returned, and of what else was of good information. She

had evidently been studying a good deal Gertrude thought, with the great generals, and Jennie too had kept her wholly informed about them and the dangers of the enemys movements of an action fierce and severe at Trinoque, although she did not mention whether the christian or the foe side had won.She frequently afterwards spoke of the missing Princesses, and of her longing to see the day Evens would come back with them, and had mentioned that the search for them was still being maintained by others, in o ignorance of Evas intentions, and that she felt confident that sooner or lighter th or later they would come to light.As as to even as to this she gave Gertrude no unusual details, and Gertrude there for s felt even from his from her desire apart to see her again, she should greatly enjoy a good long talk with her to findout about everything that had been going on about her since her leaving.Gertrude was loath to tell Jennie what had happened on board the raft on the fatal August the 10th, but she had to, and did so in quite short detail.For some unknown reason or other Jennie had indeed abstained from Giving her friend Gertrude the slightest inkling of what was reallly going on at Evangeline St Claire, but it probably was because she was afraid her writings might be finally known to the enemy, ad so untill any fray there would be past, she decided not to tell Gertrude anything of it.

"So the enemy are going to fight the armies at Evangeline St Claire at last"said George to Penrod that night before ten oclock."I have never had the luck before to see a mighty battle.Manley has I know sent many of his generals with armies against your good armies but I'm afraid Federal will find he ain't got raw recruits to fight against this time but the flower of the Angelinian army under the Emperor."

"It will be hot work for the christian armies nevertheless George"for Emperor Vivian will have the best of Gladelinian troops against them, and Federal is in command,andc man never beaten yet."

"It's little we care for him and his armies Master Penrod.Didn't your armies meet the fierce Manleys at Cedarmine and crush them.So even Federals army is hardly worth counting."

"But when you once see them you will find they fight much better now they have their chief general with them.You know general Hansonis and others had all their work and desperate effort to beat the Manleys at Cedarmine."

"Yes but he did beat them Master Penrod."

"That's true enough George, but his troops that is Federals are old soldiers ,most of them have been fighting before in many other wars, while a great part of Emperor Vivians force concentrated to defend Evangeline St Claire will be no better than mere militia."

"But surely they won't fight any worse for that sir."George said confidently. "Emperor Vivian will beat Federals army wherever he meets it.You'll see if he don't."

"He will try it anyhow, George, and if all the troops were as goodly trained and as good fighters as general Vivians, and Concentinian Arunburgs I should feel very sure about it.I had hopes of it because I heard general Vivian was coming to support Emperor Vivian.If he really does it will go hard on Federal, I have notthe slightest doubt on that.I wish though we all were there to see the fight ourselves, we know what we can do as scouting, but we do not know the Gladelinians known as Condgeolans, and Zimmermannions and also the Turmerannians and no one can be depended upon, if they are in Federals command."

"What makes everything so bad with this disaster is that there is or are so many in ignorant dumbell foriegners in our armies."said Mary Stanck."If I were the Government I wouldn't depend on them at all."

"Neither would I "said George the German boy."I would just put them all in the rear, and leave our own friends do all the work.And besides now all the refugees of the horror too are miserable half starved diseased creatures they tell me, and so also with most of the armies, and if a man is not fed, sure you can't expect him to do any fighting.And I hope Emperor Vivians army is not on short rations, because it would be fatal altogether as no one can fight on an empty stomach."

"I fancy the whole army will be all right as to that George"said Dolores. "I expect that Emperor vivians army will lay quiet till crazy fierce faced Federals makes the attack, and waiting quiet means for the christian army of getting plenty of food."

"And they should receive decent food I hope, Miss, not the sort of thing they say the refugees are forced to live live on . I would not like to live on dogs and cats, rats and mice, and frogs and snakes and snails as they have to for it would go sorely against me your honor."

"I'm afraid we'll be in i many such dire troubles and that we might be also forced to live on that too George "said Mary Stanck."I did once and know what it is to spend a whole day trying to chew rat meat and then only get the juice.If we do not reach some christian line soon and get ration rations

we might be even worse off by getting nothing to eat at all."

"What we face starvation you your honour"saidGeorge? I supposs they will think we will starve for those darn Gladelinians.I'd risk my life to raid their supplies before I'd go hungry twenty four hours."

"Well we may be able to get there or someone may bring comprovisions across George"said Gertrude, but "But I suppose they will be able to bring something over.But we need not have so much since our losses have depleted our numbers so severely."

"But what supplies can reach us because of the flood.The enemy even have no sheep or cattle out there."George said incredulously."

"Oh yes they have"said Mary Glorinia.Yet it would take a great risk to secure that."

"The barbarians."George exclaimed."To think that little children face greater perils because of the enemy than anyone else,and that we need buff beef and other eats, and should be forced to feed upon snails and such like.It's downright flying in the face of Providence, your honour."

."Nonsense George, we will eat beef and mutton just the same have do.We will have to secure it.As to the frogs and snails, those are expensive luxuries of the rich and you do not realize that.There is nothing more nasty about snails and frogs than there is about fish and oysters, and as to frogs they are still regarded as great dan daintios, and those people certainly know what good food was."

"Sure as I am a german myself, Gertrude-- yet I never heard tell of such a thing."

"Then you were never among the rich George!"Gertrude said ."Lots of rich foriegners like you eat them and they could fight as well as any that ever lived, and we are as fond of good living as our soldiers are of fighting."

"Well Miss Gertrude I suppose there is no accounting for tastes. There was by sister Bridget Zimmermon, who I loved better than any one.Well Miss Gertrude if you would believe it, she would eat anything she even picked up if she was hungry and there was nothing elsethere to get.That shows when you are reallly hungry there is no accounting for tastes..There's the mess bugle for supper Gertrude, and because of our sorrow from our losses I'll bet there will not be many ready to attend it."

.Gertrude decided that night to move the raft further out from shore to the southwestward, and as it was therefore moving, it was by eight oclock rolling and pitching heavily for a brisk northeast wind was blowing how and strong and as usual bringing with it the same old troubles dense smoke fore, suffocating and biting to the tongues and eyes.All on board even those gone now had not long before during the past voyages had been fav cured by exceptionally find quit weather, and those surviving even had never never experienced anything like the tossing they were nowundergoing, and waves swept washed the raft.And too because of the consequence of their sadness o ver their losses only about two or three out of all the survivors obeyed the bugle call to evening mess.

The general feeling of depression was still general even when the low for stad f shore was almost out of sight, and now too they were sure having a rough time of it for here the flood was in bigger waves.Under all other ci certain circumstances a voyage on the flood would have been delightful, but with such experiences, and with their losses, and with dangers of more peril from the enemy and fom the flood too was indeed the reverse of a pleasant experience.The space on the raft now seemed much too large for them, when before it had been almost too small to accomodate all the escort trops and child scouts, and this with a past recent perilous and ten days voyage, with occassional occassional experiences with foe and fire was notunder any circumstances calculated to raise the spirits of anyone.But then any one in the armies bound on active and dangerous service usually are in the highest spirits, and usually make light of disagreeable experiences and hardships of all kinds, but when it comes to losses of dear friends that is too much to bear.

Jennie Turner had written that she had expected to find the city of Evangeline St Claire full of christian troops, for she had said several divisions had landed before , but she had so soon found that the troops had been marched inland to the heights, and that the city partly flooded, and menanced by forest fires was not yet one upind.Jennie had wrote that as soon as the troops had landed they had been marched to a spot where a landing camp or standing camp had been erected for the use of all the christian troops who were passing through..... Their baggage had at once been sent forward,and the men therefore had nothing to do but to clean up their arms and accout rements, and to wander as they pleased by boats through the town. They had

started early the morning of the 7th and after two days marching had arived at Trin oque villiage, where several other divisions were quartered, either in the flooded town itself or in the or near the half submerged villiages around it occupying the upper floors and going back and forth over the waters by pon toons across the flooded streets. General Currans division had billots allotted to them in a flooded villiage a mile from Trin oque, a cottage not too deep in water having been placed at the disposal of the general and his staff. She wrote that the next morning, after an inspection of the inundated houses was over most of the officers and man y of the men had paid a visit throughout the town, where many refugees were spoken too and asked as to how long the flood had lasted there, and where it came from as the armies through Empror Vivians orders were ignorant of the cause, and even the flood victims had to obey the rule and could not tell, and only answered that the flood came from the north where Abbieann was said to be flooded.. Here the flood fugitive Governer of Bengali State had established his cout or h headquarters.

General Vivian himself who had years before read the history of the city of Evangeline St Claire was greatly interested in the qua quaint old town as Jennie wrote, and yet she wrote that it was difficult to imagine from the appearance of its quiet streets that it was sooner or later to be one of the most turbulent places in that section of Calverinia. Here later many were to be killed and the streets were to often run with the blood of contending armies as long as the conflict lasted. Jennie said she wondered, "was it possible that such a beautiful town was to meet with all the horrors of the war. And What a number of Convents and Homes and Schools and Orphan Asylums there were. The orphans being mostly rescued child slaves seemed now to be a full one quarter of the population, and it was curious to hear so many of them talking in different languages. The populace were quite as interested in the presence of the mighty christian armies as the latter were with them. The Abbieann ian scarlet uniforms were altogether a strange color to them which they were more accustomed to purple, and the dress of the Abyssinkilian soldiery who were encamped nearer the town, filled them with astonishment. The main divisions belonged to Empror Vivians army, which formed part of the general troop concentrating round the heights. The First Army Corps consisting of the four left grand divisions of Dundobians and Con centinians, and the first and third of the Abyssinkilians, extended from Trin oque on the right to Setsaturns on the left. The others of the Angelinians were at Gloria and Dominio villiages, and between Genitoria and Genitroque, while the main forces with artiliery of all kinds were either stretched on the lower slopes of Cascaria hill and on Ave Maria Heights. The Third army corps belonging to Hensons army held the ground on the right of the ridge near a portion of the Red Riding Hood woods, and extended crosswise in an opposite direction tward Trinoque. The savenly with the exception of the division Under Greatheart and Nemo were posted above the town, their outpost being thrown foward as far as the floods edge and into the forests and occupying all roads down which the enemy might come. The Tripohligonlians were on the right of Empror Vivians main force, and extended from Child's Junction tward Evangelin e St Claire. Although as Jennie wrote the christian armies thus formed together the dangerous might cover ing the region they were entirely overwhelming to Federal, and she believed the Glandelinians would not dare attack. The armies drew their supplies from the northeast on the right of theirposition.

Jennie fin ished the letter with;

"And dear Gertrude, general Federals movements are uncertain. But he is desirous to seize Evangeline St clair which will cut off all chances for new christian armies coming that way to reinforce those als where being over whelmed and beaten. Fierce petty actions still continue at Trinoque for the last two weeks so I heard. I believe from dispatches captured, unless he chances his mind that Federal might either advance his whole force upon Trin oque, and cut off the Abyssinkilians from their base, or drive an attack between the Gen itoria and Genitoque towns by which measure this Glan delinian wardog would similarly cut our main fores off from Evangelin e St Claire, or he might advance from Rand direct upon Evangelin e St Claire Heights where I am stationed and break through where Empror Vivians left joins the Abyssinkilian line. Empror Vivian had left the full command to general Vivian and the latter believes Federal would make an attempt the second of my beliefs as in that case Federal could fall upon Hensons troops before Great Heart and Nemo could come up to his assistance, and if successful would not only cut him off from the base of supplies but would be able to march straight upon Evangelin e St Claire.

It is dear Gertrude to defeat this plan, that general Vivian had posted the largest proportion of his troops on the heights, holding how ever the rest of oth the army in and around Trinoque where they are nearly equidistant from anypoint that could be attacked, and could move forward as soon as the intentions of the enemy was made known. By the time the whole force will be assembled general Vivian will have I believe Gertrude 80,000,000 men under his own orders, Henson will have probably 114000,000, while Federal alone has a force of nearly 100,000,000 with which to encounter this vastly superior christian force. Upon the other hand, Federals are all veteran troops, and the Glandelinians had been for a long time been accustomed to victory over other christian armies. Yet of our own force fully half are of Angelinians consisting chiftly of young troops so hastily taken from the mobolization camps that a great number of them only still have the uniforms of the militia of the Mobolization camps they came from. It seems to me Gertrude that your surviving friends should not be discouraged for it is I believe a well nigh desperate enterpri'e for Federal without Hanlo/s support to attack so greatly a superior force as our own. But some say he has in fact no choice but to do so, for other armies are coming from the extreme northeast, the whole of Abbieannie and her other states are aiming, and so their forces would soon be advancing upon Glandelinia, and that it is necessary therefore ifpossible to defeatour armies before they could arive. If he succeeds in do ng do n doing this the enthusiasm that would be excited in Glandelinia would enable him to vastly increase his army. And in the meantime Gertrude dear his confidence in his own military genius is unbounded, and the history of his past successes in great battles containing so many triumphs seems about to win under circumstanc e more favorable than the present.

Even dear Gertrude during the days that have elapsed since I managed to get here, and while the threesa great christian armies were assembling, and taking up their positions, the troops stay stationed outside and in the other towns and villiages had a pleasant time of it with the flood. The city itself was crowded with refugees from the forest fires. Here were numbers of the wives and children of theofficers of the various christian armies also. Here too are many of the Calverinian nobility, who had abandoned the west since the outbreak of the floods. Here too are numbers of people come when they fled from the big fires and who too had the desire of being present at the theatre of these great events together with crowds of horror sticken refugees of the ruin ed cities up noth north, for Calverinia now because of the flood had been for many weeks been closed to every one, and they say great numbers have crossed the region and fled into Abyssinkila, and into other states.

And to make it worse Gertrude the news of Federals advance had occassioned a great scare even among foriegn tourists. A very few days have passed and all towns in thepath of his advance has been deserted, and they say so great was the crowd that the boats able to run on streams and trains too outside the flood zone between Calverina and Francis Atlanta were insufficient to carry them. Many of the visitors to these parts of the country instead of leaving for Abbieannia are making for Abyssinkila instead, and are being joined by all kinds of travelers hurrying out of Angelinia and Bengali and other states for none could say what course of events or what course the events that would w follow Federals advance might take. At Abyssinkila some believe they would be safe, the distance from there to Abbieannia is short, and they could if necessary leave at any time.

For Two exceptions fortunately in this story, the orderlies verifition had been wrong. Jacks head wound was from a glancing blow from a shell fragment which though it had cut deep enough to make a wound like a hole had not penetrated, and the shok had knocked him so far unconscious that he did appear to be dead. The main surprise was of the morrow, when after Jean too thought to be dead had been restored, and was even able to rise and bet up remembered her experience the day before, and went to see whether Jack had been laid out, and was overjoyed and surprised to see himsitting up with a bandage round his head, trying to tell how she had saved him from death under shell fire. Jane Melfort Mildreds companion and friend was there too, and when she told of Jean Melforts death Jack was agrieved. Gertrude did not know yet the course of events, but all the night she had not slept and had in her sorrow directed the raft in such a manner that for once it had made nearly fourty miles, and Penrod had announced that instead of reaching Evangeline St Claire he knew that they were far past it. But though it was early morning, and dark yet all whosurvivo survived on board the raft and few who had slept were surprised to see the shores northeast of them ablaze with bright lights of all kinds of bright colors. The raft was halted for the fear of foes and Gertrude who was summoned at first paid no attention. As she was finally on her way she thought she saw two little ghosts.

"Why---why Jean, ----Jack, ----Jack is it you I see or, or , maybe you are spirit spirits"???"!

"No, we are very much alive thank you "laughed Jean."My shoulder however is mighty painful, but the surgeon said it was better for me to be moving around instead of lying down.Jack's head has only been badly grazed, and he wounded leg, reinjured.You buried Jean Andros yesterday and not me as you supposed."

"You said your shoulder wound was mortal yesterday"said Jack protestingly."

"Well it surely felt so, for it was bleeding like a foun tain, but the doctor saved me after I had swooned at the error of your being dead.But I'm away from shell fire hereafter, and you too Jack.I'll not go near such scenes any more. It'Is almost like suicide.Anyway if I was killed, and others of us too, that would give the Glandelinians great joy and I don't intend to satisfy them."

Gertrudes joy at the truth was unbounded, and oh she felt like going on with her expedition again.

Gertrude decided to see where the lights came from on shore however and by the aid of her glasses saw staff officers in the uniform of a number of Abyssinillians dashing back and forth on horseback, followed by their ord orderling, and now and then two or three general officers, riding at a slower pace, and engaged in earnest talk, passed along, while the roads were occupied by immense crowd os men and officers in the uniforms of all the Angelinian troops.Although Jean had declared that it there might be still a portion of general Vivianns victorious army, Gertrude and some of the others were not unanimous in their sympathies of her statement,and indeed the majority believed that they were looking on some other army.Those who suspected they might be some other army even than general Vivians at Evangelin e St Claire kept this to themselves just then .

Gertrude decided to wait untill it became daylight before she hailed any of the soldiers from the raft, and the weather too that morning was unusually warm and still,and although all knew that a new war storm might at any moment burst it was difficult to believe while.soon enjoying themselves over the fact that Jean and Jack were not among the dead, that to morrow they might see another deadly conflict or experience one like the afternoon before.Just as Gertrude was speaking with with Jean on the matter of how she had been fooling ad cheating death,and Jack too, the telegraph instrument began to work, and again it was was from Jan Jennie which ran as follows:

"Gertrude dear, a battle is threatening at Evangelin e St Claire.The cavalry of the christian army and the pickets of the enemy is maintaining a vigilan t watch over each others movements,and each are endeavoring to prevent the passing out of any person who might carry news of the intention and theposit positions of the armies.The action at Trinoque was short in duration but very severe.But the line was too far long to be broken right, and the enemy had to abandon that villinge.I'm glad Gertrude that general Vivian is perfectly aware of the gathering of Federals forces upon the other side of Evangelin e St Claire creek,and his army is so immense that it is scattered over a very long front, and there is also no indication yet as to whatever point Federal islikely to make an attempt to break through.During the past three months too l arge bodies of men had labored hard to restore the ruined fortifications of the towns around our own position.The moats have been cleared out and deepened, the works repaired,and the sluices restored, so that in case of necessity a wide tract of country in the enemys possession could als also be laid under water.

These wise precautions is being specially taken on the right and on the Ave Maria Heights where general Vivian expects the Glandelinian army to make its attack,and where general Vivian calculates that with the aid of the obstacles so interposed to ke Federals advance the troops stationed there would be able to check the ti tide of assault untill Hensons army arrives to the assistance.The country between Evangeline St Claire and Trinoque was reconnoitred ten times,and engineer officers were and are still employed in making sketchesvof of all thepositions that appeared likely to offer special advantages as battlefields forour armies standing on the defense.Among others Gertrude the fields lying in front of Evangeline St claire are being mapped,and the spot is being specially marked by the generals as one to be occupied in case the enemy tried to force a way between General Vivian, and H Hensons army.And also general Vivian learned that Manley had advanced to support Federal and therefore hostilities are about to commence.Now Gertrude to keep things secret I'll not sent you any more notes untill the battle had raged.But I'll pray that our side will come off successful."""

Jennie purrr."

When daylight had come as much as it could they saw everything on shore in the distance was going on in strange regularity.somewhere a military band was playing Holy God we Praise Thy Name, and numbers of well appointed carriages filled with handsomely uniformed generals, drove to and fro,and crowds of officers and soldiers and even civilians strolled under the trees, and discussing the latest topics of the war, the flood, the fire and other war horrors.As to the coming of the raft, no one yet notice it.Gertrude suspected the great subject of the talk was of the news of the danger of the a war storm breaking over Evangeline St Claire far away, and if it was a success it would outshine so far any other christian victory yet that had taken place during the war so far.

It was just before the mess call that Jean had approached again to where Jack was lying on his cot;

"Can you keep a secret?"she asked.

"I think so indeed"Jack said, as good naturedly as his pining head would allow.

"I suppose you are or were going to tell the story of how I brought you to the raft under fire."

"Of c u course I should.We were both wounded, and Penrod too is quite absorbed in the thought of the great little Heroine you made yourself to be."

"Well the secret is this.It is quite probable if you like me so well as you say, that you'll not speak of it at all."

"Why how is that?"Jack exclaimed."

"Because it'll get us into further peril."

"Why is the enemy here too."!

"Not yet, but there is no telling, but they may be, and as our supposed death may have been circulated to the enemy, it is best for the while to let them believe we are dead dead or otherwise they may be more wary..I have just seen Angeline Jennings whose arm is in a slight sling and whose head too is bandagedup.There were a lot of her officer girlscouts and others around her, and Penrod too, who had just come from our signal tower on the raft , and she was told that the Glandelinians are forming in many armies throughout the war zone, and that a heavy conflict more severe than usual is raging again at Sanitary Creek. Penrod had issued orders half an hour ago before we were awake for the whole of our surviving force to find out whose army that is over yonder and if it is a christian army to embark, leave the raft and remain with the army.There is no saying which way any new glandelinian army may come, and this danger upon us all may be a false alarm, and it may be a reality, so that notone of us would be safe any longer on this raft.We have as Gertrude said suffered too much a loss already,and on board our raft we have the burden of five thousand wounded, not counting us girl or boy scouts.First all the wounded who are not able to be moved is to be taken to the army yonder, those who are able to be about can take sanitary treatments there.However all of us are to be ina readiness to go to the army at a moments notice.Penrod is to gather us all properly and when you are to be moved Jack you must remain within my sight as despite of my shoulder wound Penrod has selected me to nurse you.Of course this nonsence we hear of may only be intended by the enemy th to feel the strength of of our christian forces but at any rate it is a sign that the game of war is going to begin in real earnest soon ."

"But if the orders are issued, and all of us are to collect, the so secret cannot be kept long.We are well known you know, and so is your sister Minnie."

"No, by that time I suppose the divisional orders,and of what happened to us all will be circulated, and every one will know it in about an hour or two. There is really not much secret to be made from it Jack.If there had been the colonel would not have told me, and I shouldn't have warned you.I hear from the sounds on shore that the indification of our raft is known already."

A change was indeed taking place in the position of the scene.Soldiers were gathering along the shore of the flood in great groups and throngs, gazing twrd the raft, talking eagerly and excitedly.The orders too for the concentration of all troops had also been known, though as yet all on board the raft except Jack Penrod, and Jean were still in ignorance as to the reason for the issue and what will be done to their wounded.The general idea was that Penrod h had heard news that a great battle was al so raging at Evangeline St Claire near Trinoque,and these measures were merely precautionary and they did not know how near to that scene the,where.It might be days yet too before the outcome of the affair really will be known.Still it was important news, and there were pale faces among many on board the raft at this sudden reminder that the assemblance on board the raft, was not a mere gathering to get to the new army, but that the war was becoming more grim, immeasurably more terrible and and earnest than before.

"We had better be getting to our mess"Gertrude said coming up."After breakfast everything willhave to be packed up.That's my uncles army over there.I know the flag of his standards."

"But does this mean that all our own survivoring troops are to be under arms all the time?" George the German boy said."

"That it does George.Of course we not we do not need to be kept standing in line,but when we are ordered to come embark from the raft at a moments notice, on such a business as this it means we will all have to be assembled. The wounded who are prostrated will be moved first to receive better care in the army.But it means business I can tell you.Uncles army is always on the advance, and some how he must have known of where we might be for Jennie had telegraphed me that he was trying to locate us."

"Then I for one shant go to any other measures."George said."No doubt it will be a pleasant sight to see manypeople coats, and this for me will be a new experience also altogether."

"You are right George"said Angeline Riches."Besides you will probably find that General Concentinian Aronburg will issue orders that will be obliging to us.I shall look forward in an hour or two for a fleet of boats to come over to pick us up as we cannot beach in this neighborhood as the water is deep even at the edge of the shore.But I don't know how far this flood may extend,and with an army of troops on the northeast side of this shore, there won't be much chance of the enemy making it hot for us now."

While the Mess was being eaten, others who had breakfasted first were making the preparations for the removal of the wounded.

"What is this all about about Penrod"Dolores asked as she came out of the mess hall.

"It is in orders that we are to embark for the army over yonder and we are to assemble at a moments notice.Gertrude gave us news that it is her own army that under her Uncle, and he had been able to follow us or find us at least or maybe we ourselves came upon his army.There is also to be a grand operation against the foe."

"That ispleasant orders."said Dolores .

"And there is rumores"said Angeline Riches dolefully"That a fierce action took place at a villiage near Trinoque."!

"Yes I have the written news of the battle "said Dolores.You want to hear of it---ch Angeline."

"Well of course I should like to, and so would every one but that good is the news if we have lost the fight.I suppose however it couldn't be helped, for of course you would like to read it."

"Not if you do not wish to hear of it.Gertrude didn't wish to hear of it yesterday when we thought Jack and Jean were dead or would not pull through.I tell you how we will arrange J Angeline.What the order means is that first our wounded shall be transported to the lines beyond on shore.Embarkation will begin at ten oclock this morning.I will come to you before that time.An hour will be enough for me,so then I will com back to my company an d I will read you the story of the battle from the battt paper."

"Thank you very much Dolores"said Angeline.

"And look here Angelinia.You had better arrange with your survivors to leave your beautiful dress uniform out, so that when you get into the army camp you can slip into it and have the other packed up.That's what I am going to do.I can't have or afford to have my best uniform spoilt in case one of the boats happens to capsize capsize and throw us into the muddy water.A girlscouts army doesn't run to such extravagance as that even though its high."

"What will be done with the baggage when we reach the army."Asked George who was standing near."

"U Oh I don't suppose the army will march so soon.But if we do the quartermaster of our own raft will detail a party to collect all the baggage left behind and put it in store.We needn't bother about that, especiall especially when for aught we know we might get new ones free of charge.."

Dolores then showed the paper and Gertrude read the news as follows;

"It was on the evening of August the 10th, of this year 1913 that the dangerous Glandelinian generalsRichardsonia Fedderal pushed his armies forward to ravage the region, and break through opposition near Trinoque.What did it matter that he only had sixteen divisions of troops to match against fortified christian villiages; and swarming cavarly sq squadrons, and that many of his men and officers carried sullen fears close to even upon protest.There is in that wicked generals heart that would make him go forward to attack the chr st christian lines with nothing but a raft beneath the feet of his army.Some such desperate hazard, dared before the very eyes of our christian world had ever been the dream of this Glandelinian ch dftian for fame and glory

against the christian s were the passions of his wicked and bloody soul.No less compelling was his wicked love for his still wicked coun try's cause, his devotion to the dreaded evil of the horrors of child slavery.He felt sure of success for elsewhere christian armies are still reeling under the agonies of the most horrible disasters of the war, and Glandelinian armies are burnin g many towns at every unprotected sector.Federal knew that some heatening counter stroke, bold ,drast dramatic and inspiring was a necessity among christian generals l opposed to him, and Federal had in his mind purposes to prevent general Vivian from delivering it.He moved his armies straight forward to break through at Trinoque,and he captured six small outposts,that raising christian attacks of exceeding vo violence north of Trinoque barred him from the positions where lay the christian munition "cants" that he planned to destroy.Not until the night did any situation permit an attack upon Dolores villiage near by. Two fortifications guarded the town, and two hundred and twenty five cannon s were in position, but when Federal called or ordered an attack his voice had the eager sound of one who invited a person to a merry making. Darkness was coming on as this fdry Glandelinian general and five million men in a grand assault scaled the parapets and fell upon the unsuspecting garrisons.Both fort s were captured without loss of life, and every gun was spiked, but general Cain sent to storm the town from the north was driven back.Furious with disappointment Federal undertook the task himself, but by the time he had given two houses to the flames, ancan overwhelm ing rush from counter attacking christian troops compelled retreat with great loss.

Other portions of Federals troops came under under general Draklin contem ticusly confident over the christian town of being won by them.The first uproar of guns and musketry proved how ver the superiorship of the christian marksmans hip,and straightway the Glandelinians gave way in confusion.This portion of the Glandelinian army was like a wrecked ship wallowing helplessly, the ground was piled high with dead and wounded, and the Glandelinians retreated badly defeated.Federals generals were raging, hysterical,and panic stricken over this outcome, and cried out against the daring christian general as a land pirate.Federal also elsewhere had some confidence of success but before he could also drink deep the cup was dashed from his lips.Harassed general Mic-Hollester Johnston sadly confessed that he was without artillery to support the attempt, and added the gloomy news that not sposition of the christians could be carried without Federal waiting for the main of his army to come up.Not only was there no hope of success against such overwhelming numbers for G Federal and his generals but even munitions for his artillery could not be provided without the main army coming up.

The christian generals opposed to him fought valiantly even in bitterness of heart in remembarance of the country's losses in the flood.For hours they had conveyed troops, and one general during the battle had run the gauntley gauntlet of Glandelinian gone guns, and had captured supplds that proved Trin oques salvation at the end of the battle.What also saved Trin oque from Federals battle mad soldiers was no chance of heart or efforts of all the christ ian generals, but general Greathearts own effort alone.As handsom as gallent ,s and as brilliant as brave, his officers and men loved him, and particularly was he loved by all who knew him.Therefore alas for soaring hopes on Federals desire .The Glandelinians in making the attack also had been compelled to rush through portions of the flood where it was shadd shallow but deep with slush and mud,and even Federals fiece energy backed by the artillery he could bring into use could not bring him the success of breaking through here.At eight o clock that night there arived a portion of his army under general Alliance Lad Landais.

The one gleam of joy was for Federal the meeting with his aide Blainer N ight Linger.At once these two planned no less an effort than the capture of Trinoque itself.Unhappily other generals changed the plan, and also before heart breaking delays prevented two successful attacks being made, and Landais was shot dead with dreadful loss to his troops. Other Glandelinian generals fell back in dismay as the "Mad" Federal had unfolded his plan to capture Trinoque without waiting for the other army to come up.Three small divisions to attack a nation of troops.Precious days before had been wasted in argument andpleading, and when his generals did assent, a storming counter attack from the main chirist christian lin e drove the troops back in disorder.

This was as though the christian troops had snatched the christian positions from his grasp for his soul was never one to consider the possibility of defeat.Broken hearted, convinced that glory had escaped him, he turned his troops back to Grains creek, and it was in this modd mood of black depression that the christian troops moved to give pursuit.The left wing swung into action knew, but the center hard pressed drew off, and the right grand division dropped to the rear.Darkness fell and by the light of a full moon, the Abyssin

Abssinkillens news newest and finest uniformed troops of the christian line bore bore down upon Federals left wing.At the first outburst of the enemy cannon sixteen guns exploded, putting an entire Glandelinian batteryout of co mission, and tearing a great gap in the Glandelinian column.The christian artillery which had been pushed forward lat ro , and the other fon battards were silenced.Three gun battards of small calibre were onl left, the battle lines crashed like monsterous waves in collision, soon regiments and brigades were gone, and mangled bodies in countless numbers littered the ground, but with fierce hands, it seemed possible that indomitable general Federal was to beat back defeat.There was no fury of courage that he did not employ to rally his disheartened and frightened troops, no trick of generalship that he did not use to lock his troops with his adversaries in a death grapple.He knew this to be his one hope, but twice the Glandelinian columns failed to hold before the christian attack, and again and again the christian artillery raked the Glandelinian front lines laying the dead and wounded in ghastly crowds and tearing new gaps into the enemy's line.Suddenly a cry of joy sounded from the left, and wiping his eyes clear of blood and sweat, Federal looked through his glasses to see another Glandelinian column coming up.Even as he raised his voice in a cheer, christianartillery from a position northwest of Trinoque poured two tremendous curtain fires into these new Glandelinian columns, driving it back in confusion.Lower and lower sank hopes for Federal of breaking through at this point, his lines were torn from end to end by christian fire and assaults and as flames swept forests of trees in the battle field the flames s spread the panic and confusion.Some fool ran to the rear and released three hundred and four y four y fourty christian soldiers who were prisoners and these escaped;
A gunner wounded and depa despairing called for quarter.Another furious a tack, tore through the Glandelinian front untill scarce anyportion of the lin e was held together, more troops rained on Federals rear despite the frantic efforts of the field machine guns to stop them, His fire blazed in Trinoque, and again the maddened Glandelinians rushed to the defense, raking the attacking christian forces with repeated curtain fires of musketry and cannon , and Federal still by sheer force of inc invincible will, kept his troops in battle line and drove his men to fiercer action.For his dauntless soul death held no terror, fe defeat was the horror.

More and more desperately he fought to drive the christians back and four times the opposing sides closed.The extreme right grand division was carried away.Federal decided upon a counter charge to end the horror.With the leap of a tiger Federal seized the chance when the christians were temporarily checked and lead a furious assault.The Abbiesnnians however were comingup coming up and they s struck like a wave even though the Glandelinian fire picked them off as fast as leaves fall in a storm.

"Forward"Federal had shouted, and rallied his men to repell the worst charge yet.Now it was the turn of the Glandelinians, and at Federals fierce word, general Blainer Night Linger went forward a whole thick line of men following with yells. The counter charge broke the attack of the christians and drove it back, and another moment and through the swirling smoke of horrible battle, dashed a ch Glandelinian courier;

"He shouted,"Stop the attack, and recoil, or we'll be struck in the rear.General Hanson is advancing with his hw whole army to rejoin his other army."To make a retreat however would be fatal.The time was already 10,35 and three hours and twenty minutes already had the christian assaults raged.Yet to add to the completeness of the horror, now came the Concentinians under general James Gannon, and all the time untill past Midnight the Glandelinians laboured in their efforts to save theirposition, but the Glandelinian army was shattered.Storms of attacks beat upon the Glandelinian position, and swept upon Federals crippled troops and army, but Federal amazing generalship though unsuccessful was able to avert disaster.

Though short in duration it was a horrible battle, and the way these christian soldiers fight now shows that Abbiesnnia and her states have went mad with rage against the Glandelinian nation,whose armies have raided her coast, destroyed her property by floods exolosions and forest fires, terrorized her ports, whipped her warships, and madeca mock of the Abbiesnnian mistress of the seas.As if this was not terrible enough, Abbiesnnia refused any further standing on such horrors. Federals army was in a shocking state, and before he had even begun to retreat to his stronger positions he was informed that his retreat was cut off.Yet under cover of a furious storm of attack he managed to cut through to safty.Therefore before his main army would come up Federal s had been cheated and humiliated by the armies he had struck at Trinoque. At other points too the christians had advanced in three columns and this stout resistance against Federals plans had enabled the christian general to bring up two or three of his other Corps. Now Federal saw that when his main army arived he would have to go tward Evangeline St Claire from other points.

A Glandelinian brigade defended bridges at three points pretty stoutly, and then had contested every foot of the ground, [illegible] so that at the ed of the day thechristians had marched only n miles ."

Ankeline Riches marvled at the report in the news, and and wondered what would happen later as this morning was now the eleventh.She knew that among general Vivians army were many experienced men, whose experiences rendered them strong and invincible, and she wondered if they would also fight like in the recent details of the terrible struggle at Gaderdne Gadernine just past.

Jack still layvin his cot, and Jean was standing outside, while a doctor was examining her shoulder wound, and finally pronouncing it not so bad.

Impatiently they all waited for the time for embarkation.

During the time of the w waiting two surgeons entered the tent on the raft and examined Jacks leg which had been wounded a second time.They agreed at once th t it was necessary to dig some more shell fragments out, but that otherwise the leg was not dangerously injured and no amputation was necessary. Jack winced when he heard the news.

"I won't hurt you very much"One of the surgeons said."The nerves are all numbed with the shock they have had, but it is absolutely necessary to get them out or otherwise such serious complications will set in that I would have to amputate.And even if the wound tried to heal over the fragments gangerene then would set in and your life would really be in danger.And surely besides my boy you don't want to have ntrouble with your leg all y our life."

"Of course if it must be done it must."Jack said."There are not many pieces in my leg are there."

"There is not enough to be of any use."the surgeon agreed,"but there are plenty to cause serious results if left long enough there.The nerves being numb ju just now prevent the danger, and so we thought the sooner we extricate them the better it'll be though you'll suffer great pain after wards I'm afraid."

The operation was performed at once, and although Jack had to press his lips together very hard to prevent himself from crying out, he did find it far less painful than he expected. The doctor took out two pieces the size of a silver nickle, and also two stones."

"The same had been found in Jeans shoulder."said the surgo surgeon as he was concluding the operation.You are a brave lad, and she sure admires you.But it seems unusual that a little girl should rescue a boy.Here my man"to Jacks orderly"Take that basin and tumbler and run to the other side of the raft to the mess kitchen before the breakfast is over.They will give you some broth there and some weak spirits, but do not take any water.Bring them here at once.Jean will take care of Jack.She has been selected as his nurse. "

The soldier obeyed, and Jack took a spoonful or two of the broth, and a sip of the spirits, and then lay b back and presently dozed off to sleep. Jean as despite the pain in her own shoulder which p made her very neck feel it too followed the surgeons out of the tent.

"Are there any instructions sir"she asked pleadingly.

"Your friend is just to be kept quiet as possible.If he is thirsty give him some lemonnade, I know we have plenty of lemons on the raft.You can obtain that from Miss Aronburg."

"And about my shoulder sir.I wouldn't speak about it, but I have had nothing to eat since yesterday morning, and I don't like leaving Jack alone even to get myself a mouthful.And as they are busy I won't allow others to bring it to me."

"You should though, being an officer.We have regular rations, and all the servants and orderlies of officers should serve their superiors.I will see to it that some boy will take down your mess kit and bring you some food.Br Breakfast is already in progress, and as there are many other boys and girls in the same plight as yourself they will too be served accordingly."

A"All right sir."said Jean.

She took her pl ce by Jacks bedside, untill she saw that she he was sound asleep, then taking the kit from under the cot, she stole noiselessly out, and two or three minutes later returned with the pannikin full of soup, a small army rye loaf, and a small ration of wine.

"Well"she said to hersel f as she sat down to eat them with the aid of her one good hand"These are good quarters entirely with so vast a christian army close to us.Indeed I should wish for nothing better than go boating down the waters for miles and miles, and miles, if it wasn't for the boy friend lying there, and this crazy war. Everything now good to eat, and drink and a scene beyond fit for a king.Nothing to do now but nurse him.If I wasn't handicapped with my shoulder I could do it better, but Mary Stanck will assist me."

After she had finished her meal, Jean took her seat by Jacks bedside, but she was thoroughly exhausted.She had not slept a wink after she had recovered from her faint, from loss of blood, and the orderlies shocking mistake in saying Jack was dead, and after the fatigue of the horrible day before; and of her the night before having been up every hour on guard, to watch and direct those paddling the raft when it was or had been so often assailed by the numerous floes of wreckage that had threatened the raft with ingoing and even with disaster.After awaking up suddenly with a jerk once or twice, she muttered to herself"I will just take five minutes nap on the cot near him, then I shall be all right again,"and gently threw herself down on her mattress with her great coat for a pillow, and slept indeed for several hours.So heavy was her slumber that she was not even roused when the surgeon came in with Gertrude and Amelia Richer round nine oclock to see how Jack was.It was Jack had just woke.

"How do you feel Jack"Gertrude herself asked.

"I feel quite comfortable"Said Jack,"but shall be glad of a drink.Where is my heroine Jean."

"She is sound asleep there in the corner."The surgeon said."I will give you a drink of lemonade.The poor little girl is worn out no doubt, after all her efforts in saving you."

"Oh yes please don't wake her"Jack said:"I am glad she is asleep, for she had all that terrible day yesterday and last night, and was all hours on her feet the night before..Besides she saved me at a terrible risk, and therefore I do not want anything but this lean lemonade, and I have no doubt that I shall go straight off to sleep again as soon as you have gone."

It was not untill about twenty minutes to ten that Jean awoke.She felt a the shock of pain in her shoulder as she rose quite suddenly without thinking of her wound, and therefore remined for a few minutes before she gradually recovered herself.She then got up and went to Jacks beside and saw that he was awake.

"How do you feel now Jack."

"Oh I am getting on very well Jean, but you gave yourself a bad shock in rising so sudden.That's bad for your shoulder.My arm hurts me pretty bad now but I believe I can bear it if you can.I expect it will pain worse presently."

"I have been having a few minutes sleep Jack, and now if you don't want me for a minute I will run down and see about getting a breakfast for you.The doctor said you could.I should think it must be about finished in the Mess hall."

"Breakfast was over long ago, and we'll soon be embarking Jean.Why its just ten oclock."

"Ten oclock Jack.Why you must be dreaming."

"I don't think so Jean .Look and see for yourself.My watch is on the table."

"Why surely Jack you don't mean to say"Jean said in great astonishment, "That I have been sleeping for four hours or more.It was a little after seven when I laid down to take what I supposed was a five minutes Nap.The watch must have gone fast."

"No the watch is perfectly right Jean .I heard none far distant church clock strike before I dozed off the last time.Why Gertrude and a surgeon came in at about nine clock, and gave me some lemonade."

"And yet I knew nothing about it.Why and I just laid down for a five minutes nap Jack seeing that you had gone off into a beautiful sleep.Why didn't you have the surgeon awaken me.It would have been all right.A fine thing I should be doing sleeping like a sleepy head when you are lying wounded there and I and Mary only to look after you."

"It was the least thing you could do Jean.And you too are wounded you know and your wound is worse than mine and your shoulder bone had been broken. The night before yesterday too you had been on your feet every hour, and after your experience with me out in that shell swept inn e, you would have been fit for nothing, if you hadn't had a good rest.If you can get something o to eat even now bring me up a basin of broth, and a piece of bread.I begin to feel hungry, and that's a good sign I believe."

When Jack had finished his broth he said to Jean;

"I do not believe I will want anything now for sometime Jean.If you like you can put a glass of lemonade or brandy within reach of my hand, and then I shall do very good for an hour or two.I am quite sure you must be dying for further sleep, and so go better sent in Mary and get some more rest.It will fresh you up and do good for your wounded shoulder,and if you do not wish to sleep you will be able to bring me back what news you can gather as to our losses since our expedition as Gertrude will be taking to the roll call soon to find out for the benefit of her uncle, and to find out also whether the army

of his will be going northward or southward....."

It was some time however, it can be said, before poor Jean would consent to leave Jack, but at last seeing that Jack really wished her to get some rest, especially for the sake of her shoulder and arm, she went out for an hour, and returned full of the rumours she had found from Gertrudes Roll call of the terrible losses of their own, that only twenty girls, and ten boys were fit for service, and five hundred soldiers, and all the rest who were either lying helplessly injured or had been left behind in graves, and the news of the deaths of Jane Halfort and Catherine Estabrook, and some other officers was shocking to him, and made him greatly depressed.This surely was an unpleasant morning for he had also taken a liking to Jane and Estabrook, and he said sadly;

"I'm dumbfounded that it wasn't Jane Halfort who had not been killed as you know how reckless she is and how mildred always scolded her for it.But those less reckless are the victims.I was never reckless, and neither were you Jean, and yet if you didn't save me, or I you we'd also be lying under the sod long ago.I could not hardly believe my eyes Jean that you, much smaller than I am, and apparently much more slender could carry a heavy boy like me.How in the world did you do it, and too when you were wounded twice.How on earth did you do it?"

"I do not know myself"Confessed Jean looking somewhat surprised."I believe it is because I always wear the Miraculous Medal and always say the Prayer, Oh Mary Conceived without Sin, pray for us.How long it took me I do not know and the shell fragment tore my shoulder so deep that I suspected it was a mortal wound, and do you know Jack it really and honest to goodness heart to die it was."

"It was."

"Yes, even the doctor said to me it was positively no.A miracle had been worked on me I know it and therefore I confess it was the devotion to Our Blessed Mother and others that saved us both.I got to the oar boat, and after forcing my bad arm to help do the rowing got you to the raft.When I recovered I thought at first I was dead and my soulless floating.Yet than the pain in my shoulder made me realize I wasn't.The orderly told me you was dead, and the shock made me faint.Since since my recovery they left me the pieces of shell that had been dug out of my shoulder, and I am going to keep them for souvenirs.It is true I should have remained in bed, with my shoulder, but I could not abandon you, and therefore the doctors said I can do as at periods but if my shoulder ever ever got worse to go to bed at once.But every thing is all right.I saw the surgeon down on the otherside of the raft and he told me!!!"and her lips quivered, and her eyes filled with tears.

"That we had lost Catherine Estabrook, Jane.Well that is terrible, and our loss too has been thousands of our own escort soldiers.We have surely had a more dreadful and fatal adventure than even poor Violet, and her sisters, and they'll be shocked when they are back and hear of it.Six of our boys too have had their arms amputated as the surgeon told me, and therefore I think that on the whole I and you have been wonderfully lucky, and our still living will cheat the enemy out of some of his victims.Dolores told me Gertrude is going to make the enemy pay dearly. George".

"But George Zimmermon was not in the room, having as soon as he discovered Jean staying so long in the tent had consent to leave them alone together.

"And you really carried me that full one mile and a half all along, and with your wounded arm and shoulder?"

"With Gods help I surely did. The orderly was good enough to take care of me after I fainted.His mistake of believing you killed, was because you lay so still, and because he thought the deep gash on the back of your head was a hole through to the brain.The docto doctor said the cut was deep, but did not mar the bone."

"How did the orderly think that I was killed, Jean?"

"Well either someone told him or he made a guess of it without for at investigating..But that is a long story, and you shall hear it another day.The doctor said that for both of us it is not good to do too much talking now. I and Mary are going to install ourselves here, one of us may be choosen to be your nurse untill you recover."

"I do not need much nursing Jean, but I shall be delighted to have you especially withme and you have made yourself my heroine. You will be a capital girlscout to me now.George the German lad is a most amusing boy,and is very much attatched to me.Do you know he got leave for a few hours directly the battle with the enemy and us was over, and why do you not want a rest when that night you was up all hours.By the way Jean, I suppose the will be our Vivian Girl princesses have not turned up yet.Jean is said in her last telegraph note that the whole army has great hopes that Evans will be there any time with them, that is if the forest fire does not overtake them."

"They have been found Jack, and it is just as all as we supposed.Evans telegraphs that he is coming to the lines and has 10,000 child slaves in his possession. .But how he rescued them when they were so far separated, and how he secured the slaves from the enemys lines, or any other details it is of no use for you to ask Jack for no one knows.And if the mystery is solved it will be a long story and now I must insist that you lie quiet and go to sleep.Here comes Mary, now and that will give me a chance to sleep too.."

"Well I will try, Jean Jean.Will you just look outside the door and see if George is there?"

Jean saw himstrolling up and down the raft, and talking with Mildred and Jane Mellfort, and she called him in .

"George this is our friend and heroine Jean Saunders"he said as the boy came in."After rescuing me even at nearly the cost of her life she is going to nurse me now despite her wounded shoulder, and as she will be pric principally with me in the daytime, you will be at liberty to be out when ever you like when we go over to the army."

"Sure I'm glad she is here"said George looking at her with admiration, though I thought I would have done the best I could for you too.Still too she needs looking after for her wounded shoulder is no joke.Can I get you anything Jean."

"Well I have had nothing decent this morning, and as it is too far away from dinner time, and if you could get me a good number of sandwitches, if it is not against the rules because of my two wounds, I should be very glad.But don't make the mistake inaddressing Gertrude in German like you did this morning early"she finished with a smile, for George in his depression over the loss of many of the others he had admired had forgotten himself, and spoke to her in his own language, forgetting that she did not understand him."

"Sure I will do that Jean,with the greatest pleasure in life"George said" and presently returned bringing in a tray with a a jug of tea, and Our ham sandwitches,and a plate of wheat cakes."

"Is there anything else Jean?" he asked not paying any attention to her look of astonishment at the food he had brought."

"Well George, I should be very much obliged if you will telegraph a note to Jennie Turner or havnone sen t that I and Jack are very much alive. Do it yourself if you can for you have mastered our language well.She will be glad to hear from you about our still being here, and how we are going on ,where the raft is now, ad so on.".

At this time Jacks arm was becoming exceedingly painful, and was being attended by very much fever, and so it was the case with Jeans shoulder and arm, but neither complained, for the doctors had told them this would occur, and had even predicted that in about a week, if they were careful their arm and shoulder would improve immensely, but both may have scars..Jean and Mary divided the nursing between them, Jean on day, and Mary on nights.

Jean however could sleep no firther than morning on account of her shoulder, and found that there was less pain when sitting or standing up, than when lying down. As she was walking up and down in the tent, Penrod himself came in, and seeing Jean said;

"Now Jean, I shall be very busy to morrow when we are in camp, and as you despite your wounds are considered fairly convalescent, and miriculous I calls it,, so there can be o reason why you should not tell us the reason you happened to rescue Jack yesterday.So how did you com to do it."

"Jean thereupon told the story.When she came to the point where both she and Jack had been wounded, herself while carrying him, Penrod interrupted her with a loud exclamanation.""I don't like glandelinians now at all Jean.Yet I can understand the idea of your having gone and brought him to the raft with your own two severe wounds,, whatever the cause was.If I had been ashore and known it, I certainly would have helped both of you, for None of us would like anything to happen to you even if there was ten worlds to be gained by it.The idea of Glandelinians hurling shot and shell at us, mere children,and destroying like that, is horrid.I didn't believe such things I heard when I fist cam to this country, but I have seen too much of it now to have the slightest doubt.But why did you go out toscout for.?"

"There was not anythingunpleasant about that ,Penrod.I had plenty to do, ad to think about, and the time had passed a good deal more rapidly than it would have done if I had been staying idle on the raft.And I considered it no hardships at all being out on a scouting tour.As I ! ! told you we had been first persued by Glandelinian cavarly for two miles, ad then Glandelinians batteries opene d on us.But you must not interrupt h me in my story.If I you do, I shall tell you nothing more, about it untill we get ashore."

This threat, effectually sealed Penrods l p lips, and beyond occassional

exclaminations,, he said nothing untill the story was ended.

"Well it's all very wonderful indeed Jean"he said,"And I should have never thought for a moment, nor all the rest either, that you were so brave, and at such risks could have gained such information, put things together like that, ad then despite your wounds carry Jack much heavier than you over a mile and a half, and then row him a un quarter of a mile to the raft, and besides could have carried out such a scheme.But I am awfully glad you have succeeded in escaping disaster as you did, because you had set your mind on saving him. How many Glandelinians persued you and what severly were they?"

"A half squ squadronof Hancaboos, and of the leader I don't know who he was, but Jack killed him with one shot, although I do not know how many were persuing us."

"Half a squadron, five hundred Glandelin ians persuing a boy and girl"said Penrod in flabbergasted astonishment.Why so it takes a whole army to persue kids does it.I admire that.Brave glandelinian soldiers indeed.I suppose if one third their number of Winkin Abyssinkillian soldiers would have chased them they would climb trees like cats to escape.I thought most likely that only five or six Glandelinians were neede d to persue children.Why Jean that's tremendous that you two escaped so many.And what became of them after you ew escaped."

They recoiled when cannons opened upon us Penrod.They then divided in a distance but did not persue further though three came forward in some other manner so to see whether we got hit or not."

"Well that is certainly rather hard upon us kids"said Penrod from frowning blackly."Glandelinians persue two of us by hundreds, and then because that many cannot capture us, open fire with cannon.I don't blame Jack for killing their leader.Though of course it had been beter if you two would have remained on the raft. And besides it seemed impossible to escape from so many.Glandelinian soldiers are all very well provded for in arms and ammunition.I do not think however that it needed five hundred Glandelinians to persue a girl and boy. "

"Of course something may make a difference"said George."I seen Violet and her sisters persued by a thousand every time, Glandelinians set upon them."

"Of course in one way that seems to make a difference."Penrod agreed"but it doesn't excuse the Glandelinians nevertheless.It certainly did seem unusual however that Jean and Jack should go through such an adventure and live to tell the tale.But of course now ai since Jean explained it, it surely must have been a miracle.A mortal wound in her sho l shoulder, and she left for dead, and Jack too, and to day they are sitting up and talking.God be praised indeed. But I did not think in any case, that Glandelinians would need to persue us in such heavy numbers unless we were out in great numbers.But I suppose the Glandelinians all do that.I question whether I can ever reallly forgive them."

"I see it all Penrod"Jean said."Well now about myself,"I should think there can be no occassion for me to stay up if I do not need to unless I like.?"

"I hope you won't do it Jean for the sake of your shoulder.In the first place we all want to have you with us, you are now the chief little heroine of us all, and in the second, you will be hailed as queen of the raft when on shore,and you and Jack too will be honored.And we are going to turn your deserter over to general Aronburg.Gertrude proposes to do so, and from there he'll be transfered to general Vivians army, where' he'll recieve his disgracefull discharge and forced to go home in disgrace and shame for his cowardice."

"Well I d dudidn't think there was any necessity to decide upon that at present, but I scorn him just the same.I can't help it.The doctor said that I and Jack should get six months sick leave, but I do not want it.By all we hear the war is growing worse and worse, our side is losing,, and that there is fear that the Hanleys will have it in theirpower to cause great trouble, and that Hunbaum is marching tward Big Girl Knool with an immense army, think of it three hundred million strong.The Angelinia state I hope will tak care of him soon,whatever they do to oppose him.If there is going to be fe fiercer fighting anywhere, I do not know that I should care very much about leaving the army for even a few months but though I'll st y, no more under fire again for me if I can help it."

Gertrude at this moment came in ad and said that she had an interview by signal with those on shore, and one signalled backto tell her that the officers had an interview with the main general who informed him that he had instructions wit from general Aronburg, to examine the wounded on the raft, and to have them cared for.The army was not moving for a week, and that it was better for those on board, to remain on the raft for a couple of days, untill the wounde wounded were in a condition to be moved." Gertr de had thereupon shown Penrod what she had written down when reading the signal,and had no difficulty

in convincing him, that it was Concentinian aronburrs great army, and the general was in his headquarters tent three miles away to the rear with the other section of the army army."she went on,"the generals said that my uncle will place all aurthority relating to the army in my hands until he arrives, as and as I was of ocurse well aware, the army is immense, ad many of my well kno n friends among officers and men are there, and boy and girlscouts too.Ever the last year his army has grown and grown by an overage of thirty million every month and his army is now vastly larger than most other christian armies or then any ever reached in size during the course of this dreadful war, his army ammounting to nearly a hundred million, but he cannot find means to attank any foe armies because of flood and forest fires, and w u would have gone to Evangeline St Claire, but general Vivian advised him not to.His army has eight hundred and eighty thousand cavarly,and different squadrons will be sent to escort us to his peace presence.Jack and you Joan he wishes to see very much indeed.Our embarkation will all be completed in the course of a short time, when the general signals again but to day at least it is best to remain on the raft, but any who wishes to go ashore to the army for a time may do so but must return before night.Some of our wounded who were wounded first have recovered sufficiently to be moved, and have been moved already but it is not probably they would ever be able to serve in the army again.Our surviving Abyssinkillan commander had recieved a letter, yes erday saying that as soon as every one can be removed which it is hoped in anth another few days, the army would like to takepossession of the raft, and fortify it."

Penrod thought it advisible to move the raft closer to the northeastern shore of the flood, ad an d this was done, Gertrude leaving orders with Angeline Jennings to see to it that all munitions not needed on the raft were sent ashore.Those who were off duty found there was abundance of occupation . And Gertrude had also decided that as soon as both Joan ad and Jack had recovered their health,and strength, she decided to bring up the subject to the Princesses if they had returned by that time, and have them well honored. Gertrude then herself went ashore, and inquired among many of the soldiers for her oldvtime friend Walter Starring, but found that he was in general Vivians command.Yet Gertrudes meeting with many of her old girl and boy scouts was unbounded in delight.They took her to their camp, where their superior boyscout leader was in charge.Gertrude remained two hours with th m them.

"I have had great ad horrible times Frank"she said to the leader.At "At present I see that you do not want anything but I will soon be here with you and have two very good heroic scouts which will need to join your command. I could afford to give you all the survivors without hurting myself as I'll be with you again anyhow, and also do not hesitate to let me know when I can ever help you.It will be a real pleasure for me to do so."

Then Gertrude taking Frank, and some others of the girl and boy scouts returned to the raft.Neither Frank nor Mable Heders were informed of whom the girl and boy scouts may be on the raft but they sure were surprised to see that also their acquaintance s Angelin a Richee, and others were on the big flat boat.Joan and Jack were strangers to them however but Frank and Mable were at once friendly.

"We both hope that you'll come through all right in a week or two Miss Sanders"Mable said,"And I certainly think there is every r prospect f it.But you sure are heroes and no mistake."

At genral Vivianians headquarters Gertrude had secured a co mission papers for George to be a scout, and she had purc purchased him a uniform. When George had it on he looked a different boy. But through it all the one who dark spot of it all was the deep sorrow and regret among the survivors when all still remembered with horror how Jane and others, ad also Catherine Fatrabrook had been killed by the enemy, and all vowed to give no quarter.

CHAPTER THIRTY THREE..

AN INTERESTING CONVERSATION ON THE FURIOUS PROGRESS OFTHE WAR HORRORS, IN THE GREAT DISTRICT SURROUNDING THE FLOODED AREA. WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF LA POLAMA. TOPICS ON THE RECENT HORRORS THAT SLEW COUNTLESS NUMBERS. JACKS IDEA OF CALVERINE THE SCENE OF DISASTER.

CALVERINIA ENTIRELY SUBJECTED TO THE CONVUS CONVULSIONS OF THE WAR, FIERY FURGER THAN THE CONVUSLIONS OF NATURE. TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY TWO VOLCANO LIKE WAR EXPLOSIONS RECORDED ACCORDING TO GERTRUDE. N EWS PF PANDORA A SUFFERER. FURTHER SCENES OF DESOLATION/

Gertrude and all of the others, exce ting Joan and Jack constantly wondered whether the disasters in Calverinia and northern Angelinia State were as fre went frequent and as violent, as those that occured in Bonsall State and Angeline vine, that is those disasters that has again and and so often occured throughout July and a portion of August so far.And the eastern mountains of extreme Eastern Calverinia as they h had learned, and those of the Vivian and Bondon Hills stretching tward Evangeline St Clair and Wickey Lensin , the basin plain of Calverinia all forested, Calverinia minor, and the Coun y county of Syria and also Lebanon Run were menanced by the fierce flames of the forest fires, which ever and ever day by day were gaining in fr furty, and spreading and advancing faster and hotter all the time.The whole of this forest fire disturbance had covered a great extent than much of the known area of the floods , since the fires began, and the fires seemed also to be connected with the great Cadernine forest blaze started by that battle, which were sweeping over the Three Cross Mountains, and a blaze also in N orthern Angelinia,a new focus, which was constantly displaying its fury by flames so fdrce that it seemed as if the whole country was either in furious eruptions, or in haden regions.

Gertrude had traced this on a man made map and she said as she had the crowds of scouts, girls and boys around her:

"This zone of forest fires is more dreaded now than the floods.It keeps all of our Abbissinnian statews in darkness or without sun by mean of so much smoke and steam in the air, and the forest fire which we have always tried to avoid and which is advancing tward Evangelin e St Claire, extends from east to west, o not only within a shot distace of our great flooded area, to Centrallia Cre k,and from there to Calverinia Minor,but so far as rangers and forest police and fire fighters and country folks have reported by wireless, is moving in a way to also also menance Calverine, and the Azore States, and through the famous andmost extensive Red Riding, Marin Osborne, and Hollester forests.In the vast region of fires explosions of unknown origin have occured and have been most frequent in the State of Calverinia Mo minor and the county of Syria. Many h v have sent troops and men to investigate the cause of the blazes, and all are found incendiry and made by the enemy."

"When did the fire really begin?"Asked Angelina Richee.

"In the month of April last year, or some time last year on the day Good Friday was supposed to be on the map Orlander, now let me, see wasn't it on well thewar has been so exciting me that I've forgotten but I believe it was in April just the same.I was in that locality when it first was breaking out, and it completely destroyed the town of Lenon before my very eyes."

The shock of some explosion was felt throughout the whole of Calverinia Minor, and as Gertrude showed by tracing on the map with her finger the shock extended up as far as Angelinia Agathia, and to Dorothy Gale, and Nonhi towns, and partly in Angelinia State. Th

"There is a large rock which overhangs a river shore near Angelinia Turns"said Dolores,and I was once on top of it so that a person can see for miles round.I saw a bipportion of the forest fires, then, about three or so months ago, and the flames seemed to linu undulate like a sea, and the flames at times rose o four times higher than even the tallest of the trees.I saw there man at work on the levees of a river stream and they blew up some of the levees to flood the forest land in order to stop the flames but it was no use.Four or five days afterwards, Hanon Holendale and Irlentown and others were struck by the fire, and in this location they say the flames rose so high as to reach exactly a thousand feet."

"A thousand feet!"Asked George the German boy."Why's that nothing that is to what I have seen before I reached this raft or was taken on."

"What did you see!" asked Dolores,surprised.

"That was when I had fled away from the enemys lines with the help of

of violet, and her sisters. I was then with them, and I followed them on horseback. We were going through a forest which teemed highest hills, and there were in manyplaces of the forests large opening or clearings,and some places it was swampy, with some mud and water, but not enough to prevent fires from raging here. What made it bad for that district through which we traversed a large river was dried up because of the drought now prevailing.We rode up to the top of the highest ridge to so that my escorts the Princesses could find their bearings and reach themnearest christian army if there were any.I madeso remarked to one of the Princesses, it was the prettiest one, what's her name, Jennie, oh yes, I made a remark to her"Look there little girl Ain't that a big fire over there,".She ad her sisters looked, and before us but far distent a big fog was spreading over the sky, white and black,and gray, and also yellow, and great walls of smoke was rising in immense rolls like a volcanic eruption extending over sixty miles.The fires seemed to be on the plains and one portion raced up a hill side, and everything there seemed submerged in smoke which was advancing tward us wreathed like storm clouds.At first Miss Jennie critized my statement and said"I' [illegible]"

"It was only a storm coming" but she looked at one hill which was so surrounded bythe bank of fog that only its summit remained visible,while another mountain was hidden altogether.I would have almost believed her,, but her sisters contradicted her, and Jennie then took out her glasses and looked.Her taking out those glasses was the saving of our lives.We were in the path of it, and the only safty was to make for the largest clearing which we did, and where we had to stay for three days and nights, before the hell which burned round us had gone out.suffuciently for us to find our way to a christian camp over all those smoking tree trunks and ashes.."

"These great fires at their hottest advance"said Mildred are always accompanied by a corresponding cyclonic windstorm.What causes that? They call it the "Fire Hurricane."

."I believe that is very mysterious"said Jane Melfort."Some of us know what that might be and one of them is Jean, but for the condition of her shoulder, and of her well needed rest I do not like to trouble her about that. But I too have seen a terrible forest fire.It was in the month of May this year, and I had been sat with the other Jane who was killed on our raft to petrol a certain part of the country to be on the lookout for the foe.I was then in the western part of the State of Angelinia Vinia, and the districts ch there during some days before mysteriously had been much agitated by strange hot successive windstorms which brought smoke occasionally.The undulations of smoke clouds had been quite fantastic, and as the smoke grew more intense, those with me were so excited I could not keep them down under cover.The smoke cloud that day we were out was accompanied by a sort of violent tempest with a loud rushing noise as if a cyclone was coming up. We did not stay to see whether there was a fire or not, for there were too many dangerous Glandolinian soldiers in the neighborhood, and near the town of Benner recently about two thousand women and children had been massacred by these soldiers.Also several other smaller towns and villages shared a smilliar fate,and therefore we knew what our fate too would be if these savages saw us and we did not investigate the smoke."

"It seems strange with you reckless as you are that you did not investigate." said Minnie, jeans sister."

"I may at times be reckless"said Jean, but not when there are too many enemies around and I know it.But I had an experience once which almost cost my life, when I was out scouting alone.I was riding on my horse and pass ing under a high steep cliff in the neighborhood of Heidi's Junction, when several large masses of rock and earth were mysteriouslydetatched and hurled down tward me .As the appearance of the landscape all around was not altered, and as I heard nothing, I suspected enemies had done it, for on the top I had seen some men running away.I even experienced a portion of the Abbiesnn horror through my own recklessness.I was surveying the eastern edge of the flood there when it was at its worse, when the ground near to where I stood sank suddenly down to a depth of seventeen feet near the Forts of Abbiesnn, and from three to eight feet elsewhere, from the undermining cause by the violence of the water torrent. A village north of Abbiesnn had been at the same time overflowere overflowed having also sunk down so much much that only the tops of the houses and the walles, remained visible above the water which current however did not throw any buildings off their foundations.And a track tract of land which I had observed was so much depressed by one of the supposed

eruptiond at Abbiesnn, that I was told this land for a distance of two thousand square miles was at the time so much strangely depressed, that the waters from Lake Mic-Hollester rushed in, and converted it into a large lagoon.This inundation overwhelmed a large town which name I forget, and there remained above the water li littlemore than the southwestmortion of the town which having sustained no injury gave temporary shelter to the inhabitants who had not been drowned, and who escaped in boats the next day.."

"One thing I observed with many investigators"said George."For with the great depression I saw near one of the craters a strange and remarkable elevation which had been produced at no great distance.Between ten or eleven miles to the eastward there seemed to have been raised a long mound or bank.The extent of this elevation was two miles from east to west and its breadth was about one third of a mile.The height is nearly uniform, and its greatest amount o if about five feet."

"They say this occurance was of volcanic eruption and not of explosions."said Penrod."

"If so"said Angelina Jennings,"then this occurance is the more remarkable for it has happened so far from any known foc s focus of any volcanic action, and hardly few mountains are ever seen there for hundreds of miles.The n earest site of of such well known disturbances which is known as volcanoes is near Calverine four hundred miles south of Abbiesnn, and that mountain investigators say has shown no signs of activity.The phenomena which resulted from this mysterious "eruption"horror are highly instructive nevertheless.They do seem to illustrate the manner in which something unusual in nature may have occured, if the enemy is proved not guilty, but there is no record preserved yet, and all Volcano Scientists who have been s there, deny any volcanic action of any kind.From what George had said, there had been found manifold traces of successive similiar elevations and depressions, but only nearest the craters, while the raised Lake Branches n near Wicksy Lansin at Lake Mic-Hollester testify that whatever the outburst was it seemed almost of natural occurance, but this is greatly denied and contests are held over it now."

"A considerable portion of western Abbiesnn had been engulfed in a chasm opened by the crash."said Penrod.A large part of Wicksy Lansin too was destroyed, by the concussion, and some low mountains in its neighborhood were thrown down.They say the severe shock was felt equally as disasterous at Violet Lansin attended by violent gust of wind.By the concussion of the shock a mountain in the neighborhood was cleft in twain, and one of the halfs sank down considerably.Many houses were overthrown in that city, and neighboring villages, with however small loss of life fortunately as several hundred lives were only lost.If that was not a Natural concussion then to produce it, what in thworld was it then.'This is the greatest mystery of all we have to solve!"

"We do not know but Violet, and her sisters will try to find out"said Hattie Kornmann.The whole country of Calverin is was violently shaken that night so they say.Twelve severe shocks were felt even at Calverine, and the same number at Pandora.Every one claims the center of the strange "disturbance seemed to have been in Bengali State, near Abbiesnn, and between Poverty Row and Wicksy Lansin, and where the shocks were accompl accompanied not by what we call subterranean noises, which though similar in sound, seemed to come from a o above ground and reverbrate the sky and air into tremendous air waves.'any windows were brokwn by air waves in Calverine and Pandora and many other places.And the succession of shocks too which makes it stranger were worse always than the ones before.If there were earthquakes, usually it seems to me, the worst shocks comes first."

"Yes, and the central part of Calverinia was most severely shaken"said Mildred particularly in and around La Paloma.The succession of shocks they said contin ued for fifteen or twenty minutes, and the noise heard at the furthest distance resembled like rolling thunder, not underground but in the sky, or like when explosions occur.Many houses had been overthrown in La Paloma before the flood came and in other neighboring villages for an unknown distance.The loss of life is unknown."

"But what could all that be. Eruptions make noise from above and underneath at the same time."Said Minnie." Could this not have been some strange mysterious eruption after all!"

"Let me explain my way about this thing."Said Gertrude."Now listen closely.How could it be of volcanic action!Impossible. And besides the explosions or whatever they were did not occur in one spot.They are widly scattered as each crater they say is half a mile apart.Now too late's remember Central Calverinia is violently shaken.Understand.Many houses are

overthrown, and get this into your heads, girls and boys, the wreckage has the appearance of being blasted, and not shaken down.Understand.That's the way it went, the crash does not seem a down shaken house, but "BLASTED"into ruins. Those of our scouts who were there, said they felt no n Underground shock, but only saw flashes in the sky and saw buildings fall as if by form a windblast or as if a tornado not felt had struck them.If there had been an earthquake the buildings would have swayed back and forth or been displaced of the foundations, and there would be rents in the groun d.The only rents seen covering five hundred square miles of land, connects with the craters in all directions only, and no where else.The waters of Lake Angeline they saw were not agitated by the explosions, which would have been so had there been an earthquake, and too the crashes instead of being repeated with dimin ishing severity increased for every proceeding one, and that the last one was the most violent of all and did really most of all the destruction.I was told that leaves of forest trees and branches had been torn off as if by a mighty blast of wind, a score of miles from Abbieann.The extent of country affected most by the strange concussions of air was five hundred miles in extent."

"But do you mean to say there was no earth convus convulsion."!

"According to the testimony of witnesses no.There were no Undulations of the ground, but only of the air so to speak.Yet they say strange as it seems great landslips took place from hills in the east.But no one during the so called "Eruptions felt any earth tremors.The shocks were as of a wind blast, and came for every crash of the horror."

"That seems mysterious indeed"said Penrod."I heard that the Eastern portion of Calverinia was considerably disturbed by the strange shocks.Of course the last one was most severe."

"And too"said Angeline piches"earthquakes in Calverinia has not occured according to history for over two hundred years and when they do come they are not severe.Yet this strange concussion was felt on the opposite coasts of the sea of Calverine and others.It was also felt in Angelinia Agathia where several steeples were thrown down, and a large number of chimney stalks among others those of Emperor Vivians palace, and window glass came down from all windows like a torrent of rain cutting many who had been passing underneath at the time.We all know a storm of noise had proceeded this shock, and the air for days had been prevaded by a strong smell of a strange kind of burned powder.Yet we cannot account for it and do wonder exceedingly what did it."

"And to make it worse so far away as it is"said Another boy scout, the city of Mildred Greenburg was half destroyed by the blast and floods and twenty thousand of its inhabitants buried in the ruins.Yet all the survivors even stated to writers and news reporters that there had been a loud distant noise fifteen times and yet no one had felt any shocks.Four forts in the vinicity were so completely dow destroyed that not a trace of them could be destroyed.The strange concussions also worked like havoc in the neighbor ing towns and villiages and caused a loss of life of about thirty thousand there.

"Could it be possible" Asked Mildred again "If there hadn't been stored there immense munition sheds, and that some fire might have broke out and---"

"No,No,N o,N o-o-o-o-o"that's not at all"said Jane Mollfort."There were no munit on munition "cents there".

"Whatever it is anyhow"con tinued Mildred"a large portion of my own home town had been destroyed, causing much loss of human life, and great distress is going on among the surviving inhabitants.Yet my parents were not there at the time thank God, being in northern Abbieannia.I heard the noise myself, and it was entirely unlike subterranean rumblings.I heard the first shock; it was like a dull boom of thunder, like in the sky, which lasted about four seconds, and fourteen more severe booms followed at close intervals, some of two and three almost simultaneous.I was told more than a third of my home town city of El Verso was then further destroyed by the flood that is still raging.My old Parish Church there fell burying all the pews but it being night fortunately no one was in the Church.When the flood came scarcely a house was left standing.Fortunately by that time many of the inhabitants not marooned by the flood had camped on the highlands so that there was nomuch is loss of life as durin g the shocks , and I do not know how many will be taken from the ruins.The town of San Antonio also suffered severely and not one house is left in a good condition.A great many villiages near my home town is destroyed and all the inhabitants surviving are homeless and destitute.Even because of the flood Abbieannian charity which is very cosmopolitan in its action cannot hardly come to their relief relief."

"It is sure unusual"said Angeline Jennings."And although the shock had also been very severe at Poverty Row is it was from there that the first boatload of provisions, tents and timber was being dispatched by relief relief committees.

I have saw more than five thousand perish before my very eyes in this awful catastrophe, and watched for weeks the search for the victims among the debris,and it was found that too many to count in a life time had been injured. As it was impossible to clear away all the ruins because of raging floods there the authorities were compelled to be content with pulling down as many walls as was safe to do so, and to prevent a epidemic, and they spread lots of disinfectants ov r the layer of stone boards, and lime beneath which were then unknown thousands of corpses were lying.All of the country was severely agitated,and I saw in the paper there were 100! 100,000 people killed in La Polasa."

" read even the Blengielomennan Islands were affected by the shocks,which though far less severe at such a great distance, caused great alarm among all people and even the Blengielomennan Creatures there, and too at the same time the whole western coast of Abbieannia was much disturbed by sudden destructive air waves, the town of Sacramento was a good deal injured if not severely, especially all house windows were out, while the town of La Paso was completely destroyed."

"But"Protested Joy St Claire,"How could the "Eruptions"affect towns so far away and wrought such terrible havoc even as far as Angelinia Agathia and Calverine.And it is said the last shock was the sharpest and did the most injury and probably caused the flood.The shocks they say were sufficiently alarming as far as the towns of Angeline Junction, and did considerable injury to Gertrude Angeline, razing some houses and blowing out all windows of every building, and people there heard accompanying sounds like thunder,and too the Uncertainity of the danger was extremely alarming..The people for days after I heard camped out fearing a repeat of the shocks, although as it was Gertrude Angeline had suffered immense damage.However the disaster there did not kill many people.The total loss of human life was estimated at only three hundred, while thirty thousand horses perished, the great mortality among the latter being due to the fact, that at that night the animals were housed in the barns and sheds which fell.The towns of Bethel, and Stal were also completely wrecked, and afterthat the inhabitants were living under any shelter they couldput up-ma s mats, boards, old cloths, or boughs of trees.Yet how could shocks be felt that far."

"Well too how could the far northeast of Abssinkile feel the same shocks!" aded Gertrude. "In Pandora Abyssinkile every small residence was leveled to the ground, and every public building bridge and work of masonry though not destroy ed, suffered.Yet wh why did the loss fall mostly on planters and manufacturers! Crop cultivation in Calverinia too is a commercial interprize in which over three hundred million dollars is invested,and all that is wiped out.Large factories in all cities affec ed were wreckd or destroyed with their machinery, and the villiages erected by the Rural communiti s laid in ruins by shocks or floods.Even the severe shocks were felt at Franis Atlanta commenced about the same time.Some parts of the city especially the northern section was entirely destroyed, scarce a building escaping more or less injury.In all about thirty thousand houses were completely demolished. However the loss of life had been comparatively light as the papers say the most of the inhabitants were awakened by the first shock which was light, took warning and escaped to the wide open squares and parks before the heavy air convuls convulsions came.Williams south of Franis Atlanta likewise had suffered destruction, and a loss of a hundred of lives."

."Calverinia surely may be considered the home of the war, and its ten fold disasters"said another girlscout Gladys Wentworth."

"How do you make that out"said Joy.

"Why because there has not been a single month or a week, not even a day pass ing without one or more disaster of a considerable force and bloody conse- quence, besides numerous lighter ones of too slight a nature to be worthy of a remark."answered Glady's.

"You might be right"said Majorie."

"And as all the disaster zone has not yet been or will be scientifically explored throughout for some time, and as there is such great difficulty in de fining the one kind of disaster from this and th at, as to be regarded as whether its of nature or the enemys fault it is impossible to give an absolute statement as to the number of great disasters in the war zone"Said Joy.

"We can suspect the number though"said Penrod.If un der the term of great explosions be included all other great disasters of blasting force, we may conclude that there were two hundred and thirty two.Of this number about fourty five were of the Abbieann type.An d altogether two hundred and thirty two great local forest fires have also been records, and of those the greater number took place in the southern districts of Calverin ia.In consequence

of this records are being made girls, and you boys, whatever should all take notice of, that is records which are being made of a certain phenomena that results so strangely and weirdly from these disasters."

"The last records of these disasters though are the finest fires"said Jane Wallfort.The earliest by own existance of this great fire a are racing seem to have been as said before in April last year.After its first birth was rain had fallen, and it was brought under a control, but then some how or other it tricked the fighters, and the conflagration following a terrific explosion became very near.The fear have been racing since. Our wounded friend Jack knows a lot of these disasters, and it would be our duty to go into his out if Jean would not object and interview him shortly.I don't think it would do any harm."

While they handed for her tea t Gertrude said;

"Probably the earliest instance of this disaster is that which is said to have developed in Holandale County, when some explosion occured in which that town was thrown to the ground, and lake Solicia fell over the land.Towns we know had been all destroyed by scores; and since all these disasters have occured special prayers, libations, Masses and all kinds of Religious have been offered to Our Lord for the succor we need so well.As many say we know the tremendous force of the explosions at Abbeanna caused many strange fissures to open for five hundred miles around, and the format of these chasms is over fifty miles in length and about twenty feet in width and two hundred feet deep.Jack told Monica that the northern Province of Sunlat region was affected in a similar manner, deep rifts were formed in the ground in every direction, and one of the rivers was dried up.That is why many believe it was of volcanic disturbances and earthquakes."

"and to think of more wonderful instances"said Jane, there were no earth quake produced tidal waves anywhere though the road leading through the famous pass of Hendon near Calvertin a hills was closed up by the alteration in the surface of the earth.Some believe too forest fires came up then, touched off powerful explosives and caused the disaster."

"We see seem now to be in a period of most unusual activity"said Joy St Claire. We know it was during the period of late May or early June that the landscapes near Abbeanna was blown up, and that the loss of life was underestimated, that because of the dis disaster many cities were shaken to pieces by the concussion or air waves, and that one of the explosions threw up so much debris that it covered the ground to a dept of many feet for many miles, and that one explosion ejected so many blocks of lime and sand stone; and so much clay and sand, one block of granite which was said to have been eighty two feet in thickness, and a hundred feet broad, and hurled forward a mighty mass of water and mid sixty eight kilometres in size.Yet all this was examined and none of it was lava, or showed itself of ever having been even sensibly warm.I was at the town of Stonak that had been destroyed by the shock, and a captured Glandolinian warship lying in the river harbor at the time was moderately damaged by the explosion produced air waves caused by the shock in the air, that she had to be abandoned..I was told the shock was felt severely even at far away Sacramento City, Concentin in State though its destructive power extended for some distance to the west.It was stated that there were in Sacramento City about four hundred thousand dwelling houses, slightly wrecked, and about 56,000 others, besides many fir fire proof storage houses overturn overturned, and a destructive fire w ich raged at the time further increased the loss of life an property."

"So far as Sacramento"Abbeannia"?"

"Yes."

"Incredible."said Gladys Wentworth."

"The proofs were in the papers"said G ertrude in order to settle the argument "My own home town was wrecked, and it is just as far southward, as Sacramento is northwestward....."

"Which do you think Miss Aronburg is the gravest disaster of any kind in this war so far?"Asked Gly Gladys.

Gertrude pondered for a moment before she came close to Jacks tent, and then halting right at the entrance she said;

"It is much disputed; but what I think in the possible gravest disaster of this whole war is the e e combination of the flood and fire tom h together, especially since the most terrible disasters which came in so many processions last year ending before last May."

"Where did the Abbeanna disaster really occurr in Calvertin, or Hannall County, or State?"Asked Joy.

"Calvertin."said Gertrude.The flood swept into Hannall county of Calvertin

and then into Hannall State."

"How soon was Abbeanna destroyed?"Asked An eeling Jewelers.

"No one can record that of the effects of the explosion"said Angeline Archer" but the flood wiped one portions of it off the map of Calvertin within eighty four hours.The main explosion occured at about twelve fifteen I believe and almost in a twinkling of an eye the little town near Abbeanna known as the was blown to the air.A few moments later the waves claimed the debris of this town, and the earthly wreckage thrown upward by the explosion had turned or devastated the surrounding country for miles,, and a dozen towns of the upland hamlets and villages had been overwhelmed in the tremendous earthen deluge, or wrecked by other phenomena attending the explosion or supposed eruption.Several thousands of people were said also to have met with terrible and sudden death, scores of thousands of others h had been injured, and the long roll of disaster, from this one of other explosion s included the destruction of scores of thousands of horses and cattle, destruction of rivers and creeks and leaving waste of large tracts of land for farming, and large apple and peach an cherry and other groves."

"Could it be possible that the explosion does all that.?"Asked Mildred.

"Yes. At least the investigators proved it."

"Then a volcano blowing up into the air couldn't beat that."

"Probably not; and probably so"said Gertrude."I read of a volcano which blew itself and a whole island in the air in three explosions.This explosion may have equaled that, but could not be worse I think.I read of the party who were professional scientists who went to visit the scene.As the travelers had approached the region, they were told by frightened refugees that twenty or thirty thirty miles in a straight line from that region no shock or earthquake was experienced on the night of May the last or June the first, but there had been a terrible noise as if all the volcanoes in the world had burst to speak in that one spot at one time, and mist and gloom like a dark fog prevailed since that time for seven hours during the next day the result of a some intense dark smoke cloud which failed to dissolve away, and which had greatly puzzled many of the survivors. They then had reached within three thousand feet of the strangely formed ground crater, and some of the party had ascended to the top of what had been left to a badly blasted mine tree so as to obtain a clear view of it, and the country which had been so suddenly and strangely overwhelmed.Only on nearing the end of the ascent up the tree was those of the party again brought face to face with signs of the terrible surrounded eruption.Here besides the rain of debris of all kinds and which had fallen on and still covered the ground and all vegetation, they saw a number of strangely opened deep rifts, evidently in some way the work of the mighty blast.Coming closer to the scene of disaster, an ascending a sort of rise of ground signs of the great disaster grew in number and in toxicity..Great trees torn up by their roots, lay all around, and the whole face of the landscape wore the look of having been withered and blasted by some mighty baleful and fierce blast.A few minutes further, and they had gained the summit of a narrow ridge of ground about one hundred feet high where a scores of trees had been swept away as if by a tornado, and they told and wrote of how they looked upon the sight they had come to see."

"What was it?" they all asked in a breath.

"Don't you guess?" asked Gertrude.

"No."

"Well "said Gertrude"I hardly know myself how to speak of it or mention of the more astonishing, the prospect that they had witnessed. To them there is no more fitting phrase than that which can be applied than that of most absolute unredeemed desolation,--so intense, so horrible so sad, and so bewildering that all reporters who came there afterwards to see despaired of describing or writing of it in details."

"Well what was it?"They all asked in bated breath.?"

"Well as far as I have read"continued Gertrude, on their left, but a little above rose a in curved rear wall of what must have been some hill recently before the blast, now a ragged almost sheer cliff, falling they say with scarce a break to a depth of fully six to eight hundred feet.In front of the cliff everything had been blown away and scattered over the country before it in a roundish fan shaped deposit of for the most part they wrote of unknown depth, deep enough however to erase every landmark and conceal every feature of the hill defaced area."

"Didn't they examine the cliff where the explosion torn thins things away to see whether it had been a Volcano b/c blown up?"Asked Dell Dolores.

"Yes, they did.They explored the foot of the cliff but there was no evidence of any such matter as seen from a volcano.The base was denuded however by the explosion, and facing to the edge of the cliff and extending a great distance

beyond it was an immense aperture or hole half filled with muddy slimy water.It seemed to be about three or four miles in circumference.This however can only be a rough conjecture."

"But what about all the debris?"Asked Jean.

"That is all vague, for no one can attempt to determine the volume of the debris.Yet they reached some very moderate calculation."

"Oh how?"

"Why that the mean depth of the debris covering a buried air area of more than thirty miles or more was not less than fifteen or some feet."

"If that is so"said Penrod we could find that the work produced by this great volcanic sing like explosion if such it was caused the upheaval and wide distribution of no fewer of than seven hundred million or more tons of earth, rocks, and other ponderous material."

"I think the real figure is probably greater."Said Gertrude ."It was written that the desolation beyond the cliff and explosion center, and the mighty mass thrown out by the explosion which covered th the ten decaps were almost incredible.The visitors saw nothing else where they looked but disordered heaps of rocky debris, and in the distance resembling nothing so much as the giant, concrete, superstructure of some modern modern breakwater of our own shores.It was also curious to see on the further side of the sharp line od demarkation between the sea of debris on which it had encroached between green but now shattered forests, or amoin the lakes formed in every tributary glen by the strange massive dams so suddenly raised their against their passage of the waters.And they had seen no living thing, nor any sign of life over the whole desolate expanse.All was dismally silent and solitary. Beneath it however no doubt lay scores of human beings, and countless numbers of the corpses of men women and children, who had been overtaken by swift and painful deaths."

"I heard the little Village of Gainsville nearest the ex explosion was comparatively i unin jured."Said Dolores."Yet how was it possible that the inhabitants lost their lives."?

"They fled into the path of the falling debris and mud."answered Gertrude, "When the first explosions came and debris began to fall in many provinces everyone fled panic stricken across the fields making for the opposite hills by paths well known to all.A minute later came a thick darkness worse than that of the night.It was said they were blinded by this, and dazed by the falling debris, and other horrors of the scenes, and therefore they had lost their senses.,nd it is believed every soul had been caught by the flood torrent following at least something must have overwhelmed them far more horrible and not less sudden than that of Pharaoh and his host for they were never seen again.But here we are at the tent .let's go in."

They did and found Jean was lying down, but not asleep, and Jack who had tried to sleep, could not because of the pain on his leg, and therefore was sitting up and in some conversation with her.

After some subject was first debated on, the question was put to Jean first. She however did not seem inclined to be moved on the subject very much especially as she was some what ignorant of the affair, having read or heard very little, but Jack came to her rescue.He said:

"My parents were in Calverine when it happened, and though the terrible concussion convulsed the central portion of the State of Calverinia on that dreadful night Calverine was not so badly affected though it was felt considerably.The waves of disturbance in the air traversed a x sixty one provinces according to what my pap parents said they saw in the news over which that much of the country was violently shaken for fifteen minutes altogether, while slighter vibrations were felt for a distance of five or six hundred miles to the northsouth and west, as making themselves felt across far the far as the Distant Blanpiclowmoan Islands, terrifying even the very Blacins there.We know it had killed th countless numbers and the flood too.In Calverine itself though though over four hundred miles from the center of the streams and unknowndisturbance following the "eruptions" it produced an air shock greater than any earthquake wave ever felt lasting the same length of time."

"But how was Calverine saved?"Asked Jean her self, now getting excitedly interested in the conversation, and forgetting the pain of her shoulder and arm.

"It was as the scientists said owning to the character of the detonations which going further and further away was owing to the comparatively slow or oscillation of the air, and therefore in Calverine the damage was only known to be of the wrecking of some roofs and chimneys and of countless window glass going out."

"But how about elsewhere?"

"The results the they said was very different especially in Bengall State and the Central zone of agitation."

"Did you h a hear any of the sounds that night?" asked Jean again.

"I certainly did, and how."

"Was there a noise like underground artillery, a shake ,and a second shake, or what?" asked Gertrude herself.

"No indeed."said Jack.The noise seemed to reverbrate through the air like thundering crashes from loud explosions.,and it was very loud, but unlike real thunder.The noise was too brief though it sehond something terrible. "

"Where was you at the time?" Asked Dolores.

"I was myself in Calverine, and could hear it from there. The papers said that the sequence of events was as follows;;;;"t to commence at Calverine, the capitol of Bengall State, which is some four hundred miles from the scene of the Abbicann dkese disaster on that midnight hour of June the first, we are all alarmed by something outside as if a windstorm had broken out, we heard window glass fall, and this countied at intervals for fifteen minutes, followed by far off booming sounds as if some one once each time would hit on some ho hollow dispain dispan.We all also felt an easy swaying of the houses, and we all got out of our beds and sought safty outside in the wide centers of the streets, you know how wide out city streets are, five hundred yards.There were no earthquake shocks, but the houses seemed to sway back and forth for each time the sound had been heard, and some wooden houses rose and fell with the easy gentle motion of our raft upon this flood waters.I became dizzy, ad my mother was seized with nausea..."

"Those strange indications therefore"said Angelina Jennings, after writing down his report, together whic with the movements of the air control instruments ,denoted a disturbance at a considerable distance.But as the seismographs failed to mov move that shows there was no earth concussion. Therefore some reports of there being earthquakes was unfortunately incorrect."

"And the first scenes of this awful catastrophe"said Jeanthin time"Was indicated by small tidings from the outskirts of the disaster, as all direct news was cut off by the flood, and by the interrupt on of railway, telephone and all kinds of telegraphic co mmunication, except by some wirel ess."

"An exploratory and relief party had started from my district on the second day after"said Jack not knowing how far they would be able to proceed by train, and they soon came back, and the correspondent who accompanied them said"The way was impassable because of an enormous flood."

"I saw a part of the devastation caus caused by the explosions, devastation, not reached by the flood."said Jean. "That was when I had first enlisted into the army of girlscouts.Leaving Calverine by a night train, ten days later, early the next morning wer we were at Bonhon, one hundred miles southeast of Calverine on the outside of the destructive area of the flood.The train was switched straight east, and we came upon scenes which showed that though the explosion shocks had been sufficiently severe enough to destroy some small towns and villiages, and to displace posts supporting great wooden buildings, and denude the trees of the forests of leaves, and smaller branches, and to ruffle tiles along the eaves of houses and other buildings with out peculiar long slanting roofs nothing serious had occured.And from the train the flood looked like a sea. And at one point owing to the lateral spreading of the mild and extensive flood, there had been a slight sinkage of the line, and our train had toproceed with the greatest caution or be wrecked.We then crossed over a large stream, which seemed to run an unusual direction we passed over a country of higher elevation, where to the westward we got a better view of the immense flood.Further along the lin signs of violent air shocks became more and more numerous. Huge trees of forests had been strangely displaced country houses looked as if they had been shaken upward or blasted by wind roofs of all buildings in the towns had lost all their tiles, especially along the ridge poles all windows were out, the streets were littered as thick as hail with broken glass, sinkages in the railroad line became numerous, and although we were far from the real region of great destruction it was evident just the same that we were in an area where the air movements had been been violent as if a cyclone had struck. As there couldn't go any further, and we had to try to reach a christian area on foot."

"From what we have read"put in Gertrude"The scene of the greatest destruction is throughout Bengall State and other points, in a region greatly dotted with villiages, homesteads, towns and cities supporting 10,000 and 1000,000

and one hundred thousand inhabitants to the square mile, ad containing all the cities previously mentioned wrecked by explosion and flood.within about twenty miles of La Polama, a strange subsidence on a vast scale took place, engulfing a a whole range of towns, while over larger areas, nearest the explosion scene the soil had slipped down mysteriously as if there had been an earthquake, carrying with it many towns and their inmates.There they now the flood now is five hundred feet deep, and the water still remains. We all know what we think of La Polama as being a total wreck, devastated by explosion ruin, flood, and afterwards conflagration, causing the destruction of half the city.Oakdale nine miles to the west, fared even worse, El Verso is no more, and here not one house remains standing as we all know from the reports and one quarter of the population were killed wounded, or marooned by the ensuing floods. 11 cities and towns nearest the explosion area suffered heavily.The damage for any size of a surviving city however"Contin ued Gertrude was said to be at Mildred Greenburg, and Big Girl Knool, and was produced by floods and the shocks of the explosions.Even since this time till now and still now the surviving inh inhabitants are driven to bivouac in rude shelters outside the flood zone, and there is still great suffering among the injured to whom because of the flood it is still impossible to give proper care, even all these days after the disaster first began began.No one knows the real loss of lives as the floods carried away everything both living and dead, while more than eighty million are rendered homeless.And we all know that during these succeeding months of July and August many new disasters of greater or less intensity were noticed in increasing numbers, occuring as it seems at the rate of six a week or more. And owing to the frequency of thes these disast ,the investigation of their causes and their effects has brought on a great deal of attention there since these have occured.Our own professionals have proved themselves as energetic in this direction as they are impurely other matters of the war, and yet they have discovered nothing."

"The whole world cla m claims that one of the most fairest regions in the whole universe is our Calverinian State."Said Jean who had sat up in her cot.I have read in my Geographies and even in natural Histories that nature here is prodigal with her gifts to the whole Human Race, that Our Blessed Lord has blessed the country abundantly because of the goodness of the people, and even in the extreme southern parts of our state, all kinds of trees flourish giving us lumber to build our homes, we have even in summer rice and cotton and sugar cane growing in the extreme southeast, ad also the palm and cinnamon and all kinds of crops have yeilded their increase immensely under cultivation

"Many wonder"she contin ued"Why Calverinia so abundant in rain is so dry in weather this year.When at Home I knowingone of the city weather men asked him the cause, and he believes it is brought on by the absence of high andlows absolutely produced by these terrific forest fires.

We know great heat can produce storms, but he says this heat is killing to clouds and mos moisture, and that forest fire hurricane are caused by the indraughts of great heat mingling with the upper atmosphere especially on windy days.The beautiful scenes of such lovilinass are being wiped out by this terrific energy of the war, and as we might say it Calverinia and Angeline Vine State and Angelinia too islike a focus of the most intense volcanic action in the world with the fury of this unusual war, with its record breaking battles, explosions, fires and other great disasters..Our State of Calverinia is rapidly forming the "basal wreck" ou of our nation, and the therefore is the reason why so many say we are losing the war."

"For two hundred years Gladalinia had been threatening to the world." said gertrude..But no one knew that when she broke this war upon our Abbiannian states she could produce all this.I read in the papers that at the time of the Abbiann horror the inhabitants of Calverina, Angelinia Agathia, and even Francis Altanta and Pandora had been at midnight startled by strangely loud booming sounds, which came from the direction of Abbiann ,one hundred mil s distant at the nearest spot. A nun told me she heard that a mail str steamer passing down the Eminia Rin River two hundred miles away west had her compass violently agitated."

"Oh She had what!" asked Penrod.

"Her Compass violently agitated.Don't you know what a compass is Pen!"

"I sure do.But you don't man mean to say that it was moved at that distance Incredible."

"I didn't say so."repeated Gertrude."I said a nun told me a man told her so.If we do not wish to believe those reports then let it rest.But there w re strange phenomenas because of the strange disturbance.At Francis Atlanta there had been a fall of earth gravel and stones, and at someplaces near Valverine and Calverine too, but no one could find anything to evidence the locality of the disturbance and therefore knew not what it must meant."

"Many believe it might have been a volcanic disturbance in some region, and so no fears had been felt by anyone within the distance from the sound"Said Penrod himself.I laughed when I read in the papers that some party started for Mt Calverine to visit the scene of "Aciti activity", and how h when they reached that mountain and saw that it was not activin how they were dubfounded.The explosion sounds had occured the inhabitants of Calverine said at intervals of two explosions per minute, and that the sound too was unlike that really heard during a volcanic eruption.Someon e at Calverine said he fancied he saw to the southeastward a column of some thing white and black arising to an unusually great height but that he saw nothing else and believed he may have been mistaken.However it was noticed at P Pandora that the height of the cloud that suddenly rose upward was immense, and the inhabitants had said that each following explosive sound had increased in sound and volume..A party too of the Topographical Survey had visited Calverine after the noise and came to look at Mt Calverin e also.All he found was that its forests on the west slope had been destroyed by a forest fire which was still burning. Three large smoke col columns were noted, one marking the position of the main conflagration while the other two were in the valleys beyond the volcano. There were no less than eleven smaller fires, but no evidence was seen of the mountain having been erutp eruptive, ad that the fires appeared to hae been of incendiary origin."

"The inga inhabitants of Poverty Row thought some volcano had broken out in a fifteen minutes paroz paroxysmal eruption"said Jean.They "They said according to the news that as far as that city is from the scene the tremendous detonations followed each other forvfifteen fifteen minutes so quickly that a continuous roar was said to have issued from the source of the sound.The distance of Poverty Row isone hundred and nin ty eight miles from Abbiann,and those strange thunders were so l u loud there that the people told the reporters that the sound was like the firing of the greatest cannons at their very doors and windows.Sixteen were mighty sounds, the last of the most appalling violence, and gave rise to the most far reaching effects.I almost doubt if Violet, and her sisters, if they carry out their plans will ever discover what was the cause of those supposed"Eruptions."

"If they do not succeed, then it'll be put in history as some strange phenomena of nature which is unexplained."said Jack....

While they had been in conversation on this subject subject one of the guards on the raft,, when which was then unknown to them some fifty six miles northeast of Evangeline St Claire saw a black cloud appearing like smoke rising high into the stretch of lighter cloud shade far above in the sky.He shouted out loud enough for all on board to hear;

"A storm is coming.I believe we are going to have rain."

With ardent hopes in her heart this this that this report was true, Gertrude and some of the others rushed out to see. However to her quik eye it did not extend forward like a storm cloud, and it seemed to have its rolls and globular globular shapes extending and moving slowly upward, and she believed it extended upward not less than seventeen miles or more.

"I bet its a big Volcanic eruption."said Penrod looking through his opera glasses."It sure is one, and,----and,, here Gertrude, quick take a look,It's that g s goh gosh darn forest fire coming closer.By Heaven it believe it'll strick Evangeline St claire.The fire had followed us, even though we had beaten it."

"It sure is"said Gertrude."And the mass of smoke looks to me like an immense extensive wall.George"she cried to n one of the boy scouts."Signal to those on shore, and see if they can't get Evangeline St Claire by wireless."

The boy was successful and came back saying;

"A signal officer says on shore he got the report that that smoke cloud is seventy six miles southeast of Evangeline St Claire."

"Seventy six miles east of Evangeline St Claire."Gasped Gertrude.

"Yes indeed.The report came from Jennie Turner herself.She tried to signall you but got no response."

"And we see it so close like that"said Penrod."That fire must have gained a terrible extent."

"Ad and too"said the boy,"that fire or smoke is being viewed or was viewed by some fire signal men at a distance of fourty miles, and is sending hundreds of men to fight it ifpossible.He too speaks of the cloudy mass looking like an "Immense wall, and says it has bursts of great flames at times surging up through the lower section, at times like large red tongues rushing upward, through the air....."

They watched this smoke untill after sunset(there was no sun shing shining however) and then discovered that this immense cloudy wall of smoke resembled

a long rolled up blood red curtain,,, with the upper edges of a all shades of black, brown, allow, blue and brown and even yellow green, the whole of a murky tinge with fierce sunset like glares underneath underneath along the horizon even though it was not yet dark.Then for some unknown reason or other those on board the raft discovered something very peculiar.The most head and yard arms on their raft seemed to be strangely below with something like elatric fire, and some of those who witnessed it were scared.However much effects seemed to be easily explained and Gertrude said;

"Don't be alarmed boys, and girls.I believe the amount of the enormous cloud of smoke in the air, with such great hot weather we are experiencing there must be some sort of friction goin g on in the hot air over the fires, and this friction may be the cause to be producing a wide spread electrical disturbance in all our surrounding atmosphere.The rush of thousands of feet of great flames over the burning forests may also contribute to these disturbance.But they do not mean anything so don't be scared.Even I see that my compass is much disturbed.It's a wonder sure the heat don't produce a rain storm that would increase our floods, but it doesn't rain at all."

"I believe the greattt heat of the forest fires, and the effects of the noise of the battles, and other war troubles possibly has some shares in creating these perturbations..""said Penod..B"ut to come back to the explosions at Abbiaann.General Greatheart my instructor w o wrote to me at the time that on the telephone line in his headquarters and from it, reports like many cannon shots were heard.At Emeror Vivians palace, five hundred miles from Abbiann it was noted in his telephone station, that when he put the reciever to his ear, a roar like that of a prolonged thunderstorm was heard. But I'll bet so great is the mass of smoke in the air that profound dar n darkness must be extending to many hundreds ofmiles from the "vocus of the forest fires.I had recieved a report recently that it is pitch dark day and night at Angelinia Arathin.So great too must be the speed of the upward rushing hot air produced by theheat of the flames, that the smoke must be rolled upward to a height of fifty thousand feet or over nine miles into space.I believe at some portions of the forest fires, the smoke clouds and lighter objets must reach mus t reach more than seventeen miles.I was also notified that the ashes and embers in the rear going away portions of the fire from so many burned trees and foliage and ground brush must be a number of feet thick.The firesmust have burned over many hundreds of miles by now."

"I have some good accounts of how far the noise at Abbiann was heard."Said Minnie, Jeans sisterit "It showed indeed my dear boys and girls the distin guish ing feature of this display of strange powers with the magnitude and range of the explosive sounds. My uncle who lived in Angelinia Arathin five hundred miles away from Abbiann, reported that for fifteen mu minutes that midnight hour reports ad con concussions coming from some source were simply deafening, and the air acted like a cyclone coming each time.Also at Port Dorothy Gale ,Angelinia State, which was a hundred miles further, the inhabitants heard many reports, which led them to suppose that a battle was raging between ships on the Aronburgs Run River, and avery one who cared flocked to the river for what proved to be a futile trip. The sounds were heard not only all over the immense province of Galverinia but over a yet winder area. At a spot in Concentin is, over two thousand thousand five hundred miles, every one who were awakened in twons cities and villiages or on farms heard the awful sound.A Arain in the town of Pandora Yriponlonglia more than two thousand three hundred miles away the people of the city and all towns in the state were so alarmed that the Government sent off many investigators to seek the cause of the disturbance.At that time also all the inhabitants of the Boy King and Mlengi gimonena Islands, thought they heard the soun d of an awful battle at sea. S m Some at a distance of one thousand seven hundred miles distant heard a round for fifteen minutes as if volcanoes were in eruption.At the same hour of midnight girls and boys, the people of Sacramento Abbiannia State were aroused by what they said to reporters they thought was the approach of a wild thunderstorm, a sound which to them lasted fully eighteenminutes. So you see the time and many other circumstances show that here again the sounds at Abbiann was heare, this time at the enormous distance of over three thousand miles."

"But"said Gertrude"There was trustworthy evidence that the sounds were heard even at greater distances.Thundering noises were heard in northern Abyssinkile, and southern Angelinia, and even in Glandelinia.But most remarkable of allthe Mayor of the city of Marcucia Angelinia State made a written statement to Emeror Vivian that many times during the midnight hour of Jun e the Firie first in which he wrote reports were coming from the north like the continual roar of many heavy guns.These reports he wrote came at the interval of between four and five hours.N o doubt some time was needed for the sounds to make such a

journey. P On the basis of the known rate of velocity, they must have been heard at Marcucian fourteen hours after they started from their source."

"And yet the range of such vibrations, or so great was the range of such vibrations."said one of the soldiers, they could not be compared with the mighty and strange air waves caused by the mighty outburst."

"Air waves"said Gertrude."What do you mean air waves.?No one felt anything of the movements of the air."

"IT was an atmospheric wave pressure produced by the explosions."said the soldier."Probably you do not believe this!"

"I don't say I do, nor do I say I don't said"Said Gertrude."Your talking of air waves traveling round the world seems a fable nevertheless.If there were such air waves was there any evident proof."?

"I do believe there was!"said Jean."I read of the atmospheric wave and that it started from the Abbiann region at the time of the explosions, and movi g moving at an ever widening circle, like, well, like that produced when we would throw a stone into the water."

"That sure seems incredible" argued Gertrude,"But go on ,lets's here more about it sir."To the soldier.

"Well if you do not believe it what's the use!"said the soldier."Of course besides I do not claim it so either, I take the word of those who had or have their barometers and when which they claim was effected by the air waves.The papers said there was evident that this air wave traveled on at the rate of from six hundred and seventy four to seven hundred and twenty six miles an hour, ad and went round the world four if not eight times."

"Now you are telling something."Said Dolores."You say it goes seven hundred twenty miles an hour, and four times round theworld.Well this ought to explain something new if this was proved. Let's say for instance,---well Calverine would if supposed be a hundred miles from Abbiann, thourh of course its much further, but just lets pretend it is.Well Calverine is a hundred miles away. There was connected there recorders for pressure of air and probably still is. Then if the speed of the air wave is what you said it was, then about thirteen minutes, following each explosion this gauge showed a barometric disturbance Aqual to about four tenths of an inch of mercury, that is an extra air pressure of about a fifth of a pound on every square inch.Therefore toothe effects on the air of the minor explosions would also.have been recorded on this in strument, but then barmo barometers in the most distant places recorded this same disturbance.Well sir did just what I reallly explain actually occur.Did Barometers in all princi principal barometers in the whole world automatically record this affect of the first great wave from Abbiann, to its very antipodes in Central America far away, and also the return wave!"

"According to the papers yes.The first four oscillati ons left their mark on upwards of fourty bi barograms, the fifth and sixth on several and at many places evenin England the existance of a seventh was certainly established."

"If that is so"said Angeline Jennings, "then within auradious of o ver a hundred miles there would be enough shock in the air to take out windows in all cities nearest the disturbance.Therefore I believe some thing more than shock in the air did the wide spread destruction"

"What then!" asked Jack."All witnesses ad survivors said there was no trembling of the earth, ad that the shock s that crushed the houses or swayed them off their foudations only lasted during the seconds of each explosions."

"It may have been the concussions."said Penrod."But when did the flood first begin!"

"About six hours after the explosions."said Jean."Even at the beginning as we know the flood was of the most awful destructivenss."

"And no one can hardly doubt that this flood was synchronous with the effects of the greatest of the explosions."Said Jack."For at its worse it came at the very front like a wave from fifty to seventy two feet high and as we all knew and stillvremember had swept with restless fury over all the land and that the destruction to life andproperty will ever be fully known."

"Of all who are missing."said Mildred, with a look of terer in her eyes"Only thirty th six thousand bodies were found, and none of them identified."

"Why shouldn't that be so"said Minnie."The whole district of Bengall State is destroyed, and the best cities of La Puluan, Mildred Greenburg, El Verso, Big Girlknol, and others including Angelin la Agathia ad Dorothy Gale are overwhelmed.."

"To make it worse yet"said Jane Ma, Mallfort the formerly fertile and dens densely populated region of Central Calverinia State is entirely covered with raging flood waters still, and I believe of all the inhabitants all perished to a man..."T

"Ad three big cities of Central Calverinia completely disappeared or are covered by water to an unknown depth."said Dolores.It surely is the biggest disaster of the world, and we have been floating on it on board this remarkable and bloody raft."

"There is one peculiar thing that is happening for some unknown reason though"said Mary Stenck."

"What is that?" asked all in a breath.

"Why throughout the world since this disaster occured, and while the forest fires are raging some very unusual and most remarkable sky effects are being observed in many different parts of the world.And the news have declared that many of these effects are of extraordinary beauty and magnificence. Scientific inquiry is constantly being made, and since then so it is said it there has been collected, and alsotabulated a long list of places fromwhence these strange effects are being seen together with the date of such occurances."

"But what are the strange effects...?"asked Elsie Mc-Whirther."

"Well I have a paper which tells the effects."said Mary."I'll have to get it to explain it.I won't be long." she was back in '(two shakes of a lambs Tail)."Here are the facts"she continued. First comes a report of the Royal Society in London itself so far from us.On the 28th of July this year seen at all cities and towns in that country and also in Ireland the sun every day is being seen all day long as through a purple fog at sunset and the sun all the time looks red as blood, and has a red halo encircling it, and at sunset there comes a lurid glare all over the sky. At night the moon looks bright yellow, and there are no stars.But this is seen only when there are no clouds, and when there are clouds, but broken so the sun could shine the clouds assume a varied coloring."

"That seems strange indeed"said Gertrude,"And here on the paer it says that in Northern Abbiennia, and in all parts of the United States, South America, the Sandwitch Islands and Canada, every day a strange red threatening sky is seen at sunset, and all day the sun looks as if it was formed of a disk of blood.At Central America, there is always a crimson dawn, when over there are no clouds, for the sun is blood red at rising, and the sunsets are extremely and unusually gorgeous after sunset, first of the the afterglows, and when there are clouds, the sky and clouds would be yellow and red up to the zenith.At Abyssinkile there are seen every day vivid sunsets, the sky being vivid red, then fading into purple, green, and brown.At Germany the sun always appears to be changing color, , while at France the sun always appears green, at the middle of the sky, red on rising, and black on setting.In southern Angelinia State the sun looks like a blue green ball and has a doubly colored halo round it, and after sunset the first time the sky had become so red that there was supposed to be a big fire, and the sun sets green with remarkable after glow with gold, green and crimson colors.And the Corona is constantly seen with misty rippled surface of haze."

"One record in the paper which is still more uju unusual for reports"said Penrod hiks himself"Is that when the famous region of Abbiennn had been visited shortly after the disaster, when the flood was still raging at its height wonderful changes were noted as if done by a a real earthquake were noted."

"What was it?"asked Jane.

"Why the whole northern southern and western portions of the landscape had vanished, except an isolated pitch stone rock, twenty yards sqya square, and projecting out of the flood with unfathomed water all around it."

"It must sure have been some tremendous work of evisceration done by the explosions"Said Jane.

"And this must show to have been easily attested by the fact that where big landscapes girt with luxuriant forests is now in some places more than a hundred or more feet below the surface of the flood waters.I believe that water will remain for always and will afterwards be called Is Lake Abbiennn."

"And this proves that in all the world"said Gertrude"That there is no region that has been more frequently visited by war horrors and disasters than the beautiful lands of Calverinia, and no where has greater damage been done then throughout southern Calverinia. The worse for it however is that so much of our land has disappeared in the flood waters with all its forests and fertile fields.No earthquake had done as great havoc."

"O Our state of Calverinia had suffered from more than four hundred great and most overwhelming disasters"said one of the soldiers.Half of the horrors cannot be estimated, but it is known when ever there has been such an awful disaster the whole world soon knows about it, and and thinks Abbiennia is a Wolly Cuddle Nation to put up with it.Yet what can we do when all this cannot be proved on glandelinia, when it all ups appears to be of Natural disturbances."

"Many people do."said Jack."And moreover the disasters have been so frequent and are still being so frequent in the whole war zone that now the principal ones are serving as dates to mark time or to refer to, just as in other countries which is the case with any great historic event.A month has rarely passed without a great disaster occuring, and the full disappearance of a village, town, or city is now of frequent occurance.We know from records kept that the Lake Selicia disaster utterly destroyed over four hundred cities and towns and a tract of nearly four hundred square leagues which the day before had been covered with flourishing villages, farms, and cities, and forests and fertile fields, and the most beautiful scenery is yet even now still under water.And at the same time some where else an explosion as great as the blowing up of a volcano like Krakatoa destroyed more than 100,000 lives."

"Never has any number of catastrophes ever occured in this country before" said Minnie,"and yet now never in the whole world had there ever occured two terrible calamities as the flood, and forest fires now raging and showing v no signs of abatene abatement."

"Ad it seems to me that when the first disaster occured at Lake Selicia, it appeared that it was a sort of signal for all other disasters to occur.The disasters have soon extended throughout all portions of southern Calverinia, and throughout many other states, and also devastates northern Angelinia untill more than one quarter of Abbiennia in the south is either fully devastated seemingly beyond repair, or beginning to show signs of so being.When the disasters were first known reports came in that Mt Calverine, the greatest if not the most activie of our Calverinian Volcanoes was belching forth flame so continuously and that other volcanoes like Mt Catherine or Joan and so forth were either in full blast, or already showing signs of violent eruptions. No evidence of this was found and the mountains are still dead. W While, these supposed eruptions were were supposed supposed to be going on, the floodod was then in a tremendous state of agitation.Even they say clouds of smoke from forest fires far distance hovering over the water were strongely charged with elec electricity.We know from imagine how so many countless numbers of men women and children have fled in terror from their crumbling habitations, and filled the air with their cries of distress, as the floods overwhelmed or overtook them.Then day by day the violence of the flood and its spread increased, and as it was believed all of Calverinia seemed about to be submerged.Enormous local floods filled up big rivers till they ran over their levees making new floods that had threatened to engulf at one fell swoop all the inhabitants and their houses.If the enemy has really created this scene of horror that passes or surpassi surpasses all imagination, then how was it possible. To make it worse luminous clouds had gathered above the immense chain of forest fires, the clouds having increased in size every minute, and the clouds have kept us without sun shine for weeks.How happy I would be and I know every one else too if this heavy cloud would suddenly break up, and disappear, and allow us the well needed sunshine.But it is not so and throughout Calverinia for many hundreds of miles all seems to have disappeared either in fire or flood, and where stood months before all kinds of beautiful cities and towns and forests nothing has escaped. It does look as if we were on a portion of the country which has been swallowed up by the sea."

"And if big rains would come, how the floods would increase."said Dolores.

"But the rains would quence the forest fires."declared Jane.

"Oh yeah."said Mary Stanuk.And cover the whole country with smoke clouds and fog from the steam as if all our mountains were in violent eruption at one time.No it's better just now that the rain doesn't come in the fire area.It won't quence the fires, and will only add to the horror by making the whole of our country in black darkness like that of Erebus.I'd rather pray against the coming of rain in this neighborhood...."

"I believe under our own beautiful flag,,, we once possessed one of the most beautiful countries in the world."Said Minnie"But now we do possess two of the greatest disasters in the world, and the greatest explosions of all explosions and with a latentpower that no one could conceive.And what is to blame."?

"It is up tosome one to find out."said Angeline Riches."Our land of Calverinia the paradize of our world, is now being ravaged by the very fires of the

very Inferno we all expect to go to if we live bad lives, indeed it looks as if we all had been dipped and then pulled out of the very depths of hell without us living ones feeling any of the pains, and to become from recent years a smile smiling land of "heavenly beauty, and a possession of a Holy nation of unusual righteousness into a scene of the greatest devastation on all s ashing records.Yes Calverin in is the land of horror, and part of the country for hundreds of miles is like seas of molten fires reac ing great heights which is overwhemling the peaceful villiages and arousing the whole la worlds attention, especially to the peculiar coloring of the sky and sun. N ow what is the cause of that if any one can guss."?

"Such an optical phonomena is believed to have some co mon cause"said Gertrude herself,"especilly to what people say"And that it must be the smoke remaining at an ernormous altitude.All the facts indicate that such a cloud starts from our Calverinia land, and that the prodigious force of the draught going o upward and produced by such flames could at this time alone account for the presence of so much smoke over so many hundreds of miles of sky, and at such a height in the atmosphere.I believe when it reached the upper atmosphere this smoke cloud travels at a double express train speed, and carried by whatever the direction the wind is on the longest, it would cross in three weeks over all oceans and lands, untill the sky over the whole world is encircled with it.But the wind no doubt still carries this smoke onward as it still goes up from the ernormous blazes and more would continue to go round the world day by day, and week by week.I believe the smoke cloud has also included N orth Am rica, and Europe, though we have read of no strange Phenomena there in the skies as yet, but there may be."

"And our Angelinia State too especially in the north is a region of a part sufferer of the great disasters, and forest fire and flood horror, and all mountains where the forest fires are ran raging look li a great volcanic ranges in great eruptive activity.Why so many countless thousand of men who have flooed from towns and cities cannot get this blaze out is a mystery to me."

"And to think too the Bengall state occupys a central portion of our great Calverinian , Province.And it has or did have eight great cities of magnificent size, with all that cities have, elevateds, railroads, surface lines and Subways and the like, all of them of Abbieannian origin, and the y were sub stantially naught butunusal cities, that used to draw many tourists."said MinnieIn m "In many localities of that state however the whole country there had been covered with all kinds of vegetable growths.The largest of all our Abbieannain cities was Abbieann, and in it included all the railways that our whole country had going out and in..Here stood the largest ad and most beautiful city in the worl d.Only a few cities were nearly as large as Abbieann in this world which had I3,675 great factories, and I4,805 mills and other industrial plants. In east Bengall State in Bengal County is the city of Greinminio near Poverty Row which was blasted away by one of the explosions.This region as the papers say scientists found enjoys I say for the phrase of it"Enjoys" the distinction of having the largest explosion crater in the World, a a monsteriously dug pit full of water seemingly to their estimation thirty miles in circumference, and two thousand feet deep.It is half filled with muddy slimy water.The floating debris on the lake are distinctly marked as one looks down on them, ad it is remarkable that any on with the naked eye can take in the whole crater, and note all the water and its contents, diminished of course by the great distance.All around the crater not a tree shrub nor even a blade of grass obstructs the view of desolation.Yet there are no signs of the crater having been ca sed by any volcanic eruption, and itwasn't there before the explosion.."

"For the whole world now"said Jane Mellfort"The greatest point of horror and sorrow is this great flood which is still sweeping over so much teritory.Some one said, that where we are now, it is divided by some high land beyond in the west, but nevertheless it is more than a hundred feeet acrosss from here and perhaps hundreds of feet deep.... N o where else is there been such a flood, or has there any to be compared with it."

"Yes, and is it not surpising that we floated so far on it on this great raft"Said Mildred.The"There have been few narrow escapes and we have suffered great losses, but the loss is only fromthe enemy, and we have had no accidents, and it is needless to add than for all future histories and stories and the like no description can give any one any slightest idea of the incomparable horror of the scene."

"It reminds me of being in the bottomless pit, bounded on all sides by unscalable rocks"said Jean,"Only that s w had com in of our own will without being sent and were on the edge of the lake Dante wrote about but we doo not go across."

"The entrance to this inferno we might im agine it is one should be by a flight of steps made of water"said." one of the soldiers, making the mistake of jesting at this time."

"And you should be the one to make the steps."said Gertrude with some sarcasm.

For a time they were no all silent, as it was getting dark, and yet as they glanced on the stretch of water, the surface appeared in the gathering darkness like a mass of dead slowly moving blackness covered by all kinds of floating debris.The tendency of the current at this spot was somewhat slowl and was flowing tward the south, while along the borders of the flood east of the raft, waves or windrows of all kinds of debris was piled up apparently as immovable as the landscape itself but the wreckage seemed to lay on the water as it floated in wrinkled folds and masses, ever and anon trying to heap against the shore, and only to float off again.Jack lying where he was was watch n watching the moving waves of the water closley however, then suddenly being attracted by some kind of a light in the direction where he had seen the immense cloud when it was day time there appeared a glow which at first along the hore hori o hori o horizon looked like a fiery red serpent with flickering up and down in its reflection at some spots, and lights flashed back and forth as if creeping through and under the clouds like a chain of brilliant l flame , its form lengthened as it grew steadily darker untill the whole southern and southeastern horizon was all aglare.The glow began to spr ad, as though the cloud had burst asunder, and was disolving into bright red blood along its whole lowerportion and the sky itself seemed to go into a fierce flood of turbulent fury as if indeed it was the roof of Dantes or even of Miltons Hell.

Soon the broad glare thus almost surrounding the horison grew brighter and a roll of cloudwhichseemed m fixed and immovable except for rising upward slowly seemed to drift away into a wreath on top reminding one of a tornado cloud.Jack turned his eyes to the flood again and saw the wreckage jam slowly drift off from shore and move slowly tward the raft, reminding one of detatched pieces of rock half black and half aglow from the reflection such as is often seen of the different shades of coal fire.The force of this comparison was increased with the strange grotesque reflection on the waving and rushing waters, yet when the mass reached the raft, and collided with it the debris seperated and went to pieces exactly after the manner of large pieces of ice and heavier objects turning upon their edges disappeared in the furious vortex of the dreadful flo d flood which seemed to be forever swallowing up all that was heavier than water, and giving nothing back in return. Twi Two k inds of debris seemed to be covering the surface of the water.They consisted of all kinds of rubbish and wreckage similar to slow moving log jams in places.The heavier kind of wreckage had been lodged along portions of the shore and in the darkness the floating masses spread over the waters like an immense sombre blanket of jagged edges, and as one section after another floated down in slow procession the waves of the water made it rise occassionally with a flapping and banging motion sometimes like a sheet shaken in the wind."

Occassionally Jack was attracted by the glare of the distan fires which seemed to force its way through the smoke covering in the sky as if great seas of white hot lava was shooting high into the air.Thento continue the topics Gertrude started with;

"In the earliest histoy of this beautiful coutry, Calverinia j used to be known as the leadin g capital state, and she ad h and she and her a numerous family of states had before then formed a class of countries by themselves.She with her six sister states had been people by Abbieannians from the north. To Glandelini there is no state more feared than Calverinia.I remember the day when Violet Vivian herself had determined to smash all rer records by trying to find out the cause of the Lake Selicia Disaster.In spite of the most strenious opposition of her friends, and followers, and even of her father and sisters she had secretly followed a Glandelinian un ary army under Manley, and journey a distane of over two hundred and fifty miles, mostly on hosseback, and some times on train, o visis visiting the scene of the great disaster on the way.

On approaching the scene, she met a Glandelinian patrol on horseback, and Wheeler Glandelinias too, who not recognizing her warned her not to go near the edge of the flood and predicted her arrest and death as a spy if she violated their command.

"Of what commanddo y u belo ng to?"she had demanded.

They answered that they were of general Bicknells, and she gave them such an opinion of her mind that the leader of them was silenced.She could have taken them all prisoners if she so desired, and she herself alone too.She then

went to the forward tward the flood some, where a party of christian cavarly under Colonel Watsonia mat her.A hut had been built for o her on the eastern bank of the deluge, and here she had passed the night..The next morning, she and her company of eighty soldiers went forward tward the flood, and there in full view of the grand and terrific action of the dashing flood, she made sketches of the dreadful scene, and it is needless to sa that she was not harmed, and this act when known did much to disconcert the clandelinians in the neighborhood so that they left the region. If a history willever be made of the Lake Solicia horror it will though terrible as it was, we will never tell no such tales of horror as regards the loss of life and property as will be w i written and read in the accounts of the disasters now taking place.This however girls and boys isesimply because the region around Lake Solicia was less populated, and the tre endous manesfa tions of the disaster had lacked as much material to destroy.We do know there have been fatal catastrophes before the Lake Solicia disaster,and ruin has b en wrought which seems slight only in compar ison with the greater disasters of a similier nature, but none had ever r eched in size and extent this flood we have been riding on ."

"But where did this big forest fire that is raging so fiercely have its main origin"asked Jean.

"It is much doub ed but the ravages began at Irientown"said Gertrude.They say or so does the news say that the fire burned tward Irientown, threatening it for several weeks, spreading through the dense forests which belted the mountainous country near by, creeping swiftly onwards, and not on ly destroy ing the town with other villiages but threatening that beautiful portion of Calverinia with the fate of the Cities of the Plain."

"Cities of What Plain."

"Don't you know of Sodom and Go---",

"Oh I understand stand what you mean."

"How l ong did the fire burn before it reached Irientown?"asked Mildred.

"It is recorded the fire began last year in I9I2.For five mon ths the fire had threatened to head tward the city, and as long the inhabitants had watched its approach, h which because of the hindering work of winds, and the desperate fire fighters sometimes was checked, but nevertheless came nearer and nearer every da'e."

"Did they flee before the fire came?"asked Jack .

"I heard they stayed as long as they thought it wasxsafe."said Gertrude.They believed I suppose that their beautiful homes would be spared, and yetthey always questioned themselves as they had nightly watched the nearing glare till the fiery waves seared the forests nearest them, and finally drove them o from the town.It was said that one thousand perished n ot from the flames but in the panic that ensued.On ly gigantic causes could account for the gigantic phenomena of this forest fire.The flames in comin g tward Irientown traveled fourty miles an hour in a straight line.It branched off after hittin g the town and the branch was said to have burned over an area twenty one to thirty miles in extent, the flames they smidleaped from three to five hundred feet or more according to the amnount and thickness of the trees and foliage which the fire burn ed.This forest fire already I believe has lasted about thirteen or more mon ths the startin g in I9I2, ad an d this is I9I3 August, and over four hundred miles of forest land has been burned in a monthand for one stretch the volume of flames over one given territory was estimated at 567,000,000,000,000,000,000, feet.One branch of this fir has ran f one hundred and fifty miles to the Vivian Hills in four months but the progress of the con flagration lasted much longer and is added adding new horrors to the war.We know the enemy made the fires, but we cannot yet prove that the foe was responsible for the other disasters yet."

"When did the fires show signs of very bad conditions?"asked Jane.

"On March the 2 7th of this year, when a series of new fires began bein g formed from the parent con flagration by the fire hurricanes, and the condition became more startling so they say day by day untill n ow it is what we see at least from a distance.The climax seems far away.In one fire hurricane I saw the forest trees rise and sink like the sea in a storm.Rock Rocks were rent by the violence of the gale, buildings of a town and their contents were shattered the biggest pine trees swayed like reeds anima animals of the forests ran as if demented, and everybody because of the darkness accompanying it and the glare in the sky thought the judgment had come.The forests were torn open into gaps in thousands of places by explosions caused by the heat of flames in the turpentine trees, the fires leaped the roads tward Hiloio, horses and their riders and people aff afoot had to thrown themselves into deep wide ravines to save themselves from the flames.As I had watched the scene I saw the flames

strike Irientown myself swallowin g up houses, trees, an and and animals and burning forward three miles in as many minutes then burning a halet with fourty one people, and six hundred head of cattle which could not out run the speed of the flames. flames.

The people of the flame swept valleys flad tward the other mountains, which even themselves were catchin g fire in all directions as it seemed to me, and collecting on an elevated spot, with the trees swaying before the storm in the distance they spent a night of terror.An d so did I.Lookin g tward one immense stretch of forest I saw it suddenly turn into an immense wall of leaping flames for an awful extent, and at the same moment another wave of fire whose height I believed was four hundred feet burned forward in another direction and made for my observation post.I heard many trees fall with a crash and a roar so to say which at once answered all questions concerning the progress of the fire.The flames after traveling tward my observation post emerged even through and across a clearing burning along a front twenty miles in extent with a tremendous speed and volume of flames.Four hunge huge mountains of flame literally clouded upward in boiling fury and I believed one of these gained so that the flames were soon leaping I,000 f eet.

What saved me was that the fire passed me for about a mile, or therwise I would not have had a chance to escape.Yet from these great walls of fire spread a new fire line, and a hurri came one upto where I stood blowin g very fiercely and which made the upper flames seem to foam as th the winds tore at them with a thunderous roar as the flames sped through the valley surgin g and hissing throughout its length like a cataract with a power and fury that was perfectly indescriable.It was so far the worst of the fires I had ever seen with a speed varyin g from ten to twenty miles an hour.The main wind storm which passed me was as fierce as a tornado tearing the trees up by the roots a or tearing off the branches and hurlin g them away in clouds.From the scene of these fires the main branch in its rush through the valley divided itself into four branches between which it shut up men and beasts.I supposed though the region was very thinly peopled a thousand lives may have been sacrificed in that night of horror, and from the mad fire hurricanes, the roaring sky reaching sea of flames, and the fiery v inundation of all the forests the terrified survivors were said to have flee into Evangelin e St Claire each with a tale of woe and loss.I have heard that travelers risking all perils are joy journeying from all over the world to see the grand and horrible display of these disasters to brin g news of it to the nations they came from.I've heard it said the spectacle of these fires could be viewed perfectly at night from slips at sea three hundred miles to the southeastward, and from places of safty on land.The papers say the fires now are in one stretch across the country in this locality in a contin uous chain of conflagrations forming almost a bridge of fire across the state in the east, and from the gedernine Creek region, down tward Evangeline st Claire is now a string of the fiercest and mightiest and most destructive forest fires in existance at least so they say."

"It is a world record for the extent of such dreadful forest fires. "Said Penod." ut the time of the beginnin g of the disaster varies."

"What is that?" asked all.

"Some one told me it began in June I9I2, having been preceded by violent windstorms and cyclones of the hottest wind..I saw flames of one fire w ll up like a sea of glaring clouds in huge tongues and sheets.I saw this wall of flames cross a large rocky forested ravine with the fury of a terrific hurricane, a deep but small lake was boiled away by the h at of the conf l flargation, and rocks on the shore was turned into white heat.Through some unknown counce some tremendous explosions followed throwing rocks burning masses of trees and rocks and boulders to great heights.I was persued by the fire but being on a swift horse managed to outrun it, and from a great hi height I then had observed the flames spreading over the forested plains below in great fiery waves and everything within view was becoming hiden in a great vast sea of rolling smoke.I believe one of these fire branches was fifty or a hundred miles lo ng, and in places twenty to thirty miles wide, the other main stream was over a hundred miles long and much more wider. One of my followers has called this conflagration in size and fury the greatest forest fire of the world."

"Regarding the nature of the conflagration, the oneportion burning near Angelinia Agathia is one of the mostinterestin g of them."declared Angeline Jennings."It has advanced at a rate of twenty to fourty miles an hour, the flames have sometimes been seen rising as some say nearly a mile high at times. The whole region is hidden in smoke and all men going out are not able to stop the conflagration.,nother of the famous of the branches of the fire is that heading for Evangelin e St Claire.How soon if ever these forest fires

may burst upon Angelinia Agathia or porothy Gale no one can predict, and always Evangeline St Claire seems the next to go.If all the available men who are not in the army should arouse themselves and go forth to fight the blaze all may be well but I believe they're more afraid of the conflagration than they are of the enemy.Someday the results of the fires may turn out too terrible to even contemplate..Those who still dwell in the region of the endangered area some times have become indifferent to such a possible threat after many years of immunity, but such as this disaster now going on is arousing thought and directs the whole nation s scrunty tward all the fie zone. ."

"I believe"Said Jean who had stui studied a lots of history even for her young age of nine years"The d s f discovery of the cause of this war, which I believe began in the month of December I9I2,--- "No January of I9I2Corrected Gertrude,"Well I9I2 said jean,"but whatever it was, the discovery of the cause of this war,and Glandelinias purpose to bring it to victory in her cause must have brought on a great accession to the number of recorded disasters of the war, and as some of the Vivian Girl Princesses have told me, the State of Angelinia itself, not counting Calverinia has furnished almost innumerable instances of the war disasters in all stages."

"And "said Gertrude again, "The first of the known results of the great Lake Selicia disaster which happened last year in November and on a ID below zero day occured on the last Thursday of the Month if I'm not mistaken, and as we all know and as they sayythe cities of Speryville, and Schloeder town was some of the scene of the disaster.It was accompanied by an unusual flood following terrific mysterious explosions or "Eruptions" like this Abbiesnn affair, but of course not sogreat, the waters in the stte streets of these citds suddenly rising twenty four feet, and then retiring -----n ever.There were they say also opened in the earth by the concussions of the explosions, several large fissures.A hillock near Lake Solicia where one of the explosion s was believed to have occured was mysteriously split in twain, and has since remained in its clown condition.""I remember too when Helandale and other places was visited by a similar disaster."said Penrod.It happened I believe a month before.I read and heard that on the first occassion of the disaster, the shocks of distant explosions was accompanied by a great flood rushing through the blasted levees of the Mic-Hollester Run River which inundated the country for an immense disastance distance wiped out over eighty villiages and cities, nine hundred thousand people and added by fie.The flood spread over four hundred miles of country.The flood also overh overwhelmed Helandale and four other cities.A portion of the river coast was said to have sank down mysteriously producing a bed of quicksand where a small villiage once stood. Was that disaster any worse or equal to the Lake Sel c Selicia horror."?

"That is hard to sp."said Gertrude"I known the city of Helandale was com letely swallowed up by the flood which rolled over its site, but then the weather was not cold The city of Ancient was also destroyed.The great flood all know I suppose rolled over the land like a great sea wave, and overwhelmed everything in its path.But no one seems to testify that this disaster was as horrible as the Lake Selicia inundation."

"The whole country for two hundred and fifty miles and the city of Angelinia Agathia was violently convulsed by the Lake Selicia explosions" said Jack, and the whole city of Schloedertown was said to be reduced to ruins. The shocks were continued mysteriously in secondary vibrations for upwards ten seconds. Speryville must have stood so they say, and as it would appear almost immediately in the direct path of the great deluge from the lake.The unfortunate city was situated in the State of Quitcio not far from the levees of the lakes.And therefore the shock of the flood was experienced with disasterous effects over a district of country extending for many hundreds of miles from no north t to south, and about sixty miles from east to west.Every town and villiage comprehended with within this district was either swept away or reduced to ruins.The flood however without devastating effects went over a much larger area, extending upwards as nearly eight hundred miles from north to south and more than four hundred miles from east to west.It was a worst disaster than the flood of October because the loss of life was IOO per cent greater, and frightful blizzards and cold waves added to the suffering and horror of the survivors exposed.At speryville the flood began to come in at about eight oclock.Some faint idea may be formed a of the extreme violance of the

flood from the fact mentioned by the disaster investigation committtee that the dead bodis of some of the women and children who perished were hurled by the speeding torrent to the height of several hundred feet, and landed on an adjacent hill near the edge of the flood..Flood movements so powerful and so long continued, could not fail to produce an enormous displacement of the very soil over which it traveled and to be very destructivie to all buildings, which were on it.High slanting meadows were made level, and whole forests of trees were rent and torn asunder and the branches of the trees twisted in the most extraordinary manner.Many persons were engulfed in that flood, but few saved themselves by getting on floating wooden houses.In some instances whole calvacades of men on horseback and troops of laden mules disappeared in these dreadful floods, while some few were said to have each escaped by throwing themselves back from the edge of the torrent before it arose high enough to catch them.The amount of simultaneous elevation and depression of the landscapes before the flood came was in some cases as much as twelve feet, which was found to have been leveled flat by the flood, and many persons who were in the big Churches on that morning escaped by simply getting up to the balconies and chor floors.In known of reading of iis instances occuring of whole houses flooded up to their last story till their roofs were the only things above water, but their inhabitants lived on the roofs, though suffering from the cold and exposure sustaining on what provisions they had in store untill they were rescued half frozen.With the majority of the inhabitants of this locality it fared otherwise.The loss of life throughout the flood swept district was said to be as enormous as a million.Of both Sperryville and Schloedert towns the ruin was complete.When the disaster investigators took a plan of either city or what surpr survived of them after the abatement of the catastrophe to some degree they could find nothing but heaps of stones covered thick with ice eight or ten feet high although the cities had contained churches and convents and schools with many private houses three and four stories high and even to ten.The town of Composition they say was likewise overthrown.As we all know girls and boys the flood froze over and therefore remained.At Rio Grande the ruin was said to be as complete not a building having been left standing sac save an arch in a great square, and part of an orphan asylum.The Churches of St Peters and the Immuculate Conception and others they say at the outbreak of the flood were thronged with people who were hearing daily Mass for the purpose of a right finish of the war.Not one escaped alive. All were buried as the buildings fell before the deluge along with the objects of their devotion under the ruins of their consecrated buildings.The villiage of St Jean containing a school in which upwards of fifteen hundred children were assembled at the time disappeared bodily in the flood.A great many other villiages with their inhabitants as we know may have been destroyed by being even overthrown or destroyed.Even at Angelin ia Agathia although so distant from the centre of the flood, a great deal of damage was done to the churches and many other buildings, and to all buildings by the air wave shocks of the explosions several being wholly ruined.All private howive houses however and other buildings of moderate height were spared.The good and righteous but sensitive people of this our fairest city having been greatly alarmed by an unwonted glare of the distant forest fires at the time had devoted the previous day in procession through their streets with the images and relics of their Saints in the hope of the fact that God sewould through their prayers save the city from the supposed"earthquake, a and volcanic eruption". They were doomed to learn by experiance that the disasters were not to touch them as severely as other places for our Blessed Lord sufely was laying a protecting Hans Hand there.."

"What do they mean?" asked Dolores"when it is said that the southeastern part of this state of Calverinia had been "Redeemed from the enemy four times" when it is suffering worse from the nature of its situation.Look at the big floods, the forest fires ragin g. They say that this region is protected by many forest rangers, and that all efforts is being made to keep the flames from spreading. So far the records of these fires are only meager.Yet if there are so many fighting it why does it go on.I remember some weeks ago according to the paper the shores of the Bay of Hedda was the scene of a dreadful fire.The coast city by that name was totally destroyed, and ten thousand of its inhabitants were burned in their flight or perished.And yet we too have always been in peril from forest fires."

"I believe the reason"put in Jack himself, making a sort of flourish with his crutch."is that the forests are of such a nature that the fighters cannot have times to make large enough clearings.And then too you know when there is gales of wind blowing,you know a fire hurricane ,what it is, then fire fighting is impossible."

"Ad this forest fire now racing they sai "declared Mary, is most severe a hundred mil s southwest of Evangeline St Claire, nearest to the mountains of the Bun don range one of which is forested and rises like a vast k ake of rounded shape. If Evangeline St claire is in peril the christian armies there will have to move for the whole army cannot stay the flames.The trees in that locality are more than a hun red and fifty feet high, and grow close to gether so that except through roadways the forest is impassable, and the leaves of the vines ac thick that in broad day it is dark in the forest. I remember when Triantown was hit by the fires.Nine tenths of the city was annihilated.The houses which had not been totally destr yed by the flames were ruined to such an extent that they w re so tot ering that their occupants and owners did not dare to re-enter them.The two Cathedrals of St Grecio, and of The Virgin queen were reduced to a heap of ruins six feet high by the fi ba conflagration. The barracks of a christian comp disappeared altogether, and a regiment of infantry sent out to try and stay the flames and save the town never was heard from.To the estimate of the one thousand or so victims of the fire must be added the many more who died weeks and months afterwards from burns, injuries, and for want of food and relief.That night I know from witnessing it presented the most lamentable scene of desolation, inferno horror and woe which can n ever be conceived. The thick fog of smoke obscured everything but after the passage of the fire hurricane the night was calm and the clear flames leaped up for hundreds of feet.The flame slighted up the whole scene for many miles and the aspect of a blackened and redden reddened sky was in striking contrast with that of a land engulfed in raging flames, corpses and smoking ruin s."

"What also did you see?"asked every one in a breath.

"I saw hundreds of mothers runningabout with their children whom they were vainly striving to call back to life.I also saw many distracted families search ing for relialtves and friends, whose fate in the firee conflagration was unknown to them, but who they hoped might be sooner or later discovered in th the crowd of refugees.The injured lying half dead along the road side in the path of the fierce conflagration were making petious appeals for help, and I saw over two or three thousand who were finally rescued.And never girls did human kindness reveal itself in a more touching and inheni us fashion than in the efforts made to relieve the sufferers, and the panic stricken refugees whose cries were so heart breaking to hear.There were to no to ls tools to clear away the rubbish and the work had to be performed often times with thebare hands.The injured and the sick who had escaped from the burning hospitnl were carried to the banks of the river Aronburgs Run, where their only shelter from the approaching flames was the large large clearing.The beds, the lint for bindingup wounds, the surgical instruments the medicines, and all the objects of immediate nec necessity had been burned away in the conflagration, and for many days there was a scarcity of anything o f everything even of food and pure water.There was no water to be had at all, and in order to get water it was necessary to dew descend to descend to the Aronburg River, which receiving waters from a flood had risen to a great height, and there were very few vessels left to get it in.It was necessary also to do what could be done for little children who had been partly burned.This conflagration which at its first showing had occassioned such disasters of such greatness could not be xpected to ha e confined their destructive effect to one narrow zone of the country for at the same time these fires had extended to all parts of the woods beyond Triantown, all along the river back bank and especially among the mountains as far as they could be seen.I heard the towns of La Guayra, Mayqueta, Antimano, Baruta, La Vega, San Felipe, and ferida were entirely destroyed by the flames, and the number of homless exceeded over II,I00,000, and the number of deaths exceeded five thousand, and from the fires alone."

"Which disaster do you think is the worst?"asked Penrod of Mary.

"Both the flood and the fires are the extreme disasters."said Mary."The Flood had caused the greatest loss of l ives though, but I fear the conse quences of the fire more just now. But the floods are more rav aging and swifter. But I believe the Abbieann horror surpassing them all.Some say the heavin gs of the earth produced by the concussions of the fierce explosions were quite parceptible to those who witnessed it at night.It was said the waters of Lake wic-Hollester during the concussions rose and fell to a great extent ,and ships in the harbors of Abbieann appeared as if they were force first forced through the water, and then struck on the ground.The city of Valparaiso and several others on the shores of this lake near Abbieann were said to have b en overthrown.I know the names of many cities that were ruined and they have the same names of these cities o in South merica.The shocks were said to have been felt

with devasting effects over a distance of twelve hundred miles long.At our old fashioned town of Quinterio the explosions did little damage but six feet of waters were in its streets, and at V lenoriaso about ten feet, while some say that the whole surface now flooded is estimated at nearly I00,000 square miles or more. This year has proved very disasterous to our country, and especially at Calverinia."

"I should say so"Cried Gertrude."This flood had stretched over a most large section of our beautiful country of Calverinia stretching now from Iharra state along the northwestern border of Bonsall State to the village of Cabija in the county of Bolivia , a distance of about I0,000 miles."

"I0,000 miles!"

"Yes indeed, and HOW. And to make itmoreinteresting to you all, the effects are even now most severe about the southern portion of Calverinia embracing Pri Pruvien, and Angelinia Agathia, and also Dorothy Gale, and Jessica,and where the big towns of Iquique, Arica, Tacna, Port LLay, Arequipa, Pisco, and hundreds of others are destroyed by the flood,, and in the northen northern partsof Angelinia State where the town of Iharra was swept entrely away with the total loss of all the inhabitants the flood is said to be deepest..some unknown town near near by too was engulfed and its site is now occupied by the flood.As we know it is probable the total loss oflife will never be known..It w s was said the shocks were felt of the explosion even at Valparaiso and experiand experienced over large regions of Angelinia State.. I read that At Angelin in Agathia the shocks also lasted fifteen minutes, but no buildings were damaged.The inhabitants aroused out of their sleep took refuge in the streets.The shocks were also felt perceptibly at Dorothy Gale in Bogota County,, then it was felt still further south but losing intensity as it went further.It was felt along the Vivian and Bondon hills effecting and destroying in whole or in part a score of cities and towns and causing the death of nearly ei h eighteen thousand persons. The greatest loss of life too was said to have occured in the flooood destroyed cities of Cucuta, San Antonio and gantiago probably in these cities causing the death of about sixteen thousad persons.Some survivors stated that at the time of the flood some strange rumbling sound was heard in the horizon or in the sky, but no shock as felt.I read that thaflood struck Santigiago so suddenly that the force of the waters tore down the walls of the houses, tumbled down curches, and the principal buildings either burying the citizens in the ruins or sweeping them away in the swirling currents.The duration of the flood completed the terrible work of destruction, and to add to the horrors of the calamity many Glendelinian vandals took the risks in boats and launches to go out on the flood and rob the surround and their half flooded houses in many other towns.A considerable portion of the town of lthe Ethelburg was also destroyed.What saved most of the upper portion of the town was that it was built on a slight but quite high elevation, but the lower portions were swept away."

"That proves that our country of Calverinia has been met with a succession of disasters of all kinds"said Gladys Wenthworth.Some of them even though causing great loss of property spared lives but I believe the two worst ones were the Lake Bolicia and this now.On that fatal night of June the first I and my own parents had been roused from our beds by the occurance of these strange explosions we have so much been talking about.It was preceded by a hollow rumbling noise seemingly high in the air to , us, such shock lasting only an instant during which they did great damage to the buildings in my town that is wasware at Calverine, at the time. It was so orely felt when we ran into the streets. The street seemed as if we were on the decks of a ship and as if it had been lifted bodily from the sea, and then allowed to fall back....."

"The shoc s on all of Calverine though not disasterous were dix distinctly marked "said Jean."My mother wrote that the stone abutments of the railroad bridges across the N ornia River were cracked, and the earthworks sank in a half a dozen places . In the streets the rails were curved in some spots as if they ha had been bent on purpose . My parents said each shock seemed worst than the one before/ untillwat One fifteen the last shock alarmed the whole,, city and drove all of the inhabitants into the wide streets, and into parks and squares.They at fist believed it was caused by Mt Calverine or the Juan Volcano.These concussions as she wrote were severely felt at the town of Ratrabrook on the slopes of Calverine Hills, (West) where it lasted the same time but breaking windows and roofs an and buckling buildings and creating the most intense alarm .."

"To what extent this tene tendancy to all these disasters threaten our Calverinian country it is very difficult to say."declared Gertrude."But for one reason I don't worry about it as horrible as it is and I'll tell that reason. I This is it.If Violet, and her sisters proven it's Glendelinia's doing, I'll bet Glandelinia will be afterwards in History only.Beyond question however this disaster has done immense damage to our fairest cities, Abbieann,

Angelinia Agathia, Dorothy Gale, Big Girlknow, Jesslca, and the like. You [illegible] Glandelinia is guilty, the whole world will be against he her and com to our help, and Glandelinia will surely be reased off the map as a nation whatever."

"It seems indeed "said Jane"T hat all of Calverinia is going to be contin uallll disturbed for a long tim by the disasters of this great war and as fiercely as if itwould be disturbed by subterranean forces. Around the deep bays ofhthis once vast and splendid region, upon the shores laved by the waters of the Calverinian and Mio-Whirthian Seas, and also about the largeinland lakes christian besieging fleets and armies are massing for a fearful struggle. while most of our armies are still in mobolization camps others are frequently active against the Glandelinian armies, and to watch over the safty of our many towns and villinges. Yet all seems to be going to ruin as Mildred says. The forest fires which consume the very entrails of our forests is even burning far beneath the soil,,,, and causes as we know now this long contin ued sunless and dark smoky shadowy days. Three times within three months the Calverinian town of Guatemala has been overwhelmed by Glan delinian armies and retaken even w thout fighting, and there is not in all Calverinia, Angelinia, or any other southern state of Abbieannia, a single coast line whether east or w st wesst which has not been visited by some disaster or other. However when these disasters wouldoccur in more remote regions far from the habitantions of men in the nidst of virgin forests or in the vinicity of large lakes, it hardly would not be so much noticed."

Most of these boy and girls had during their career of adventuring witnesses bad events of these kinds, and though Penrod had never mentioned to any one he had witnessed a disaster of the Abbieann flood which had been of a very strange kind, and accompanied with a singular phenomena. Upon the day in question some time afte t after the city had been overwhelmed he had been a refugee from t it and was riding across a large flooded river made from a mere stream of three hundred yards across, to more than twenty miles broad, the weather being calm but hot, and the sun shining through a yw yellow haze in the sky. After having got across and securing his boat to the shore he had landed at the entrane to a sort of small refugee camp commanding a view of a large plain beyond the flood s dotted with towns and with stately groups of trees. Upon the opposite shore extended the flooded forest, with the main deep flood in the far distance like a rushing distant sea. One of the committees of the refugee camp knowing Penrod to be a boyscout had invited him and his companions who with him had witnessed the destruction of Abbieann to com in and rest, the whole party were seated beneath the veranda of the house, engaged in convers conversation about the flood. Suddenly a loud noise was heard far away in the forest. The birds that were thrrethere flew off in terror, ad as they looked in that direction they saw the torrent was tearing away the forest and rising rapidly. Conversation then of course had been turned upon the phenomenna then being witnessed, and som of the horrified refugees maintaine d that the flood might have been a result of the "earthquakes three nights before", som of them declaring that a disaster of this character had probably been started by the eruptions of Mt Calverine. The head of the Committee an elderly man much esteemed in the district for his knowledge went on to describe many catastrophes of the war itself just past, which he himself had witnessed, and he had said "I don't believe this is of nature at all. I'll bet anything the enemy had a han d init. He spoke more particularly of the eruptions of Mt Calverine and Joan which he said never occassioned terrifying disasters of any kind except to small villiages on their slopes. And he said, since the flood started the captian of some large sailing vessel had telegraphed to him that on the day before when more than one hundred miles from the coast where the mouth of the Aronburge Rurr River is supposed to be he had found the se s sea covered with wreckage of houses and bodies of humans and animals of all sizes and had experienced the greatest difficulty,,, in threading a way for his vessel, through these blocks of floating houses and other debris, which were floating upon the surface like ice burgs. Every one including the refugees had their story to tell, and while the party were stillll in conversation, a terrible noise like thunder was heard, and the very earth seemed to quake from the force of the distant flood. The flood undulated like the surface of a wildly storm too tossed sea, and the trees were rocked to and fro so violently by the force of the waters that the top most branches of the trres came in con tact with the ground or snapped off. Penrod and his girl followers then believing themselves out of danger now had been able to follow with ever increasing fear. ad apprehension the rapid phases of the floodd, when a strange and most alarming phenomenon attracted their very notice.

The water of the river he had crossed had been engulfed in the flood so that its outlines had entirely disappeared into a sea like expanse, and it was pouring over the levees on the east side in an immnse column or water fall which roaring and flecked with foam collasped the levees with a noise like thunder and the foaming waves dashed tward the immense plain. Penr Penrod and his companions and the refuees would have perished if they had not been standing on highly elevated ground, and as it was however they could not r restrain ancexclamenation of horror as they saw this sea of water, like a solid landscape of foam white rolling tidal wave fashion along the plain sweeping the towns, trees, and everything before it. Penrod had seen all this without thinking first of his own fate, and he believed that the greatness of the peril which threatened the whole country for the moment had made him indifferent as to the fate of himself and his compenions. In any case when he saw his familiar companion the little black haired girl friend nearly carrdd off, he remained indifferent, and it was only after the others of his followers had had very narrow escapes, that he succeeded in shaking off his apathy and going to their assistance. When Penrod and his followers, whose boat had disappeared, started for the city of San Jose, they were able to judge for them selves the extent of the shocks of the disasterous explosions. All the country through which they had been forced to pass to avoid the flood had been laid waste. Even large masses of rocks had been detatched from all hills and mountains and obstructed the course of streams, which had overflowed their ownbanks or changed their course. Whole villiages had been destroyed, and in all directions arose the lamentations of the unfortunate inha i inhabitants. In San Jose all the buildings in wood or solid masonry including massive churches, were in ruins as if a tornado had passee through and most of the inhabitants had perished. Glandelinian ghouls had been prowloing in the outskirts of the town to take advantage of the catastrophe to carry off all they could from the houses that may be still standing, and from the ruins of the others. And the agility with which these Glandelinians moved about among the ruins and escaped the falling walls,, was something wonderful, and they never hesitated to risk their lives for a very tifle indeed.

In this country"said Jane after some mediation,"the disasters of these kin d are causing many of the surviving inhabitants and refugees to emigrate. I have heard that men women and children have formed themselves into groups, and though facing many dire perils are traveling through the country. And they are setting the very drama in which they have taken part to woeful music, and it is said they are journeying from one villinge to another, singing the saddest songs, and telling woeful stories of their experiences. So far as I have read in the ppers upper Calverinia and southern Abyssinkile are bein g visited by large droves of homeless and half depraved victims chanting in monotone or telling frightful stories of the terrible catastrophes through which they have gone, and survived."

"What makes suspicion on nature"said Dolores"who had studied her Geographies as to know most things by heart"Is that the western and middle half of Calverinia, including the region north of Calverine, is a perfect volcanic center including some of the largest of the two hundred and twenty five cones and craters of Central Calverinia. But there are no volcanoes in the territory of Abbieann, though the country in some parts are hilly. If an eruption had sprang up from the ground as they believe then it must have been an unusual kind, and each outburst would have lasted only the same duration as so many short lived explosions. Like all Sap spanish X Spainish towns and cites Calverine, capital of the southern Abbieannian states covers a large area in proportion to its population. The houses are high as we know, a perfect Chi Chicago in appearance and form of buildings, while the walls are very thick in order to resist the fierce colds of winter up there. As I have seen as in all other citds, inside each house of the rich and better class there is a vast courtyard, planted with trees and flowers, generallly having a fountain in the center. It was to these courtyards that during the time most of the inhabitants were awakened at that dreadful night that many of the inhabitants of Poverty Row owed their lives, as they found in them a refuge from their falling houses. On that night within those fifteen minutes many of the taller buildings were badly damaged if not totally, and it was said that nearly five thousand of the inhabitants were buried in the ruins. Manybhad taken to their heels at the beginning of the strange disturbance,, and had escaped to places of safty otherwise I'm sure the loss oflife would have been far more terrible."

"And many towns around Poverty Row such as Incuapeda, Guadeloupe and Santigao De Marin were almost totally destroyed by the floods and many lives were lost"said Angeline Jennings.The shocks causing the most damage was the last two, the result bein g as papers said being that solid walls, arches and strongly braced roofs were broken and severed like pipe stems.Though our country and our mountainous regions are thickly forested, there are no records of any forest fires having occured by means of campers or any carelessness, though n ow they are of frequent occurance and of long duration.On of the most disasterous is raging now.Therefore this disaster is probably the most serious the country has ever experienced, and they say the smoke clouds are seen high in the sky all over the country, causing all who see it to wonder and to expect how much is being destroyed.Over 100 people have lost their lives last May when the city of Oaxaca was struck by a blaze, which burned down many buildings in spite of the efforts of the citys en ire fire departments.However so far extreme northern Calverinia has been free from these war convulsions although the slightest tremors had been felt in different parts of the country from explusion shocks..Our Calverinian Volcanoes too are famous for their size, though of late years no great eruptions have occured from any of them.There are many isolated peaks all volcanoes of which Mt catherine, ninty miles northeast of Angelin ia Agathia with a height of nearly "0,000 twenty thousand feet and Mt Calverine 19,567 feet the most renowned are both active but not bad.The latter has one crater 18,000 yards in diameter.From the summit six of our big rivers and lakes are visible.Calverine has not erupted for many years, and therefor it cannot be blamed for the distance.The only m mountain, a mere hillock that has volcanic appearances close to Abbiann is St Mt St Gertrude and it is not active and has not been.So that is not responsible either I am sure, though all the investigators look upon it with suspicion."

"What has been good for us."said Jack slightly rubbing the good part of his injured leg to ease the pain"Our own lands have experienced very few great natural convulsions like earthqu kes, that is the geographies said so.True there have been frequent shocks in Angelinia State, especially when Mt Vivian blew up and was heard for two thousand miles, and all along the western coast, and occassionally slight tremors have been felt at long many years intervals in other sections but damage done to property has been in every instance very slight, and there has been no loss of life. Therefore I surely doubt if this disasterous flood has been caused by the concussions of volcanic eruptions on the plains north of Abbiann.The same cause has emptied Lake Selicia, bursted the levees of Aronburgs Run, Mic-Hullester Run and other streams.."

"Did you realize the schocks when they came and what were they like?" asked Gertrude.

"I was home on furlough."said Jack."You know the city of Massyator.At first at about twelve oclock I believe there were some slight shocks of some kind f l felt, which awoke me and my parents, and sister and brother.The shocks were not like earthquakes, and at first we paid no attention to it thinking thewind was doing it.But twenty minutes then had passed h and the city had been rent asunder by a great mysterious shock that seemed more in the air carrying forth death and destruction, and with the schoks came strange far awaythundering sounds.I who with my parents had been in a large open square after we escaped from our house counted ten distinct shocks.The disaster to our town was wrought by the last four.Their force may be inferred from the fact that as I learned afterwards the whole of the state had felt its power to a greater or lesser degree.Our town was a special victim of this strange destruction.The city was in ruins, all of its houses were uninhabitable, fires burst forth in different sections of the city adding to the horror of the panic stricken people and then the flood too hit us.When the first of the shocks came none of us expected to escape.We got out of bed on the fourth strange shock and we made a rush for the op n open air, but before the door was reached we reeled together to the tottering wall and stopped, feeling that escape was in vain, that we faced death within or without, that we would either be buried by the crashing in of the roof and floors above or be crushed outside by the falling walls.Then the instants uproar in the distance died away far in the distance.Then everything was still, and O the blessed relief of that stillness.But the silence girls was rudely broken for us.As we then did dash down the stairway and out into the street, already on every side we heard the shrieks, the cries of pain, and fear, the prayers and wailing of terrified women and children comingling with the hoarse shouts of the excited men.And out in the street the air was filled withe cloud of dry stifling white mortar dust, through which the street lights flickered dimly as if through a blinding night blizzard storm.On every side were hurrying forms of men and

women bareheaded, partly or hardly not dressed at all, many of whom were crazed with fear and excitement.I came upon a woman who was supported, half fainting in the arms of her husband who was vail vainly tri trying to soothe her while he carried her to unopen space at the street corner, where som safty seemd to be.I then saw a sudden light flaring through a window overlooking a street, it became quickly and suddenly brighter,cand a cry of fire resounded from the crowds.A rush was made tward the spot and an effort was made to stop the blaze but in vain.Then at that moment girls--it was heard again the low far distant ominious boom which was already too well known to be mistaken. All was forgotten in the frenzied rush for the open space where alone for us there seemd to be hope of safty slight though it seemed, for the tall buildings on either side blotted out the skies and stars, and seemed to us to overhang every foot of ground between them, their shattered cornices and coping the tops of their frowning walls, appeared piled on both sides to the center of the streets.Indeed we were terrified for it seemed that a more touch would now send the shattered masses left standing upon us all down there below them and we looked up to them,and were shrinking together as the shocks of the new distant sound again came, and again the mysterious sounds reverbrated and rolled along in the distance.They passed away, and again was experienced the blessed feeling of deliverance from impending calamity which it may well be thought of girls to evoke a mute but earnest offering of mingled prayer of thanksgiving from every heart in the throng.But we were doomed to horrible disappointment.About ten hours later of some hour too in the following late morning a flood so terrible that no one can describe swept over the lower portions of our city like a raging sea leaving death and destruction and ruin behind it.It was as if we were experiencing a horror equal to that of Galveston in America in 1900.One hundred and sixty seven blocks in our most thickly populated section of the beautiful city were devasted, and not a house withoutstood the flood, and we and our parents parents with us were marooned on a housetop for ten days before we were rescued half starved.You know the few of the houses might have held together id dependent upon their own construction and foundations if they had not been buried ben a bean eath the stream of buildings and wreckage that rushed in upon us on the advance of the flood demolishing thousands of the homes, and carrying the many unfortunate inhabitants to their death. My parents believed the terrific flood had the speed of fourty miles an hour and wherever it got the debris it dragged into the city no one knows girls but it brought it into the city and on the outskirts piled it high lolike a long hill ranging from thirty to fourty feet high, and many miles long.Afterwards as we all found beneath this long ridge of wreckage many thousands of men women and ch ldren children were found to be buried, besides cattle horses and animals lf a of all description all beingpiled together in one confused mass."

"I was at Mildred Greenburg when it was destroyed."Said Joy St Claire "and it was terrible.Though parts of it was saved by the wreckage jam it was the most destroyed city in the whole flood swept district.But the principal work of destruction was said to be completed in four complete hours beginni g beginning at three o clock in the afternoon and en ding a little after six or so."

"I know all about the horror there."declared Gertrude.

"Yes for in the brief time of so few hours the very accumulations of many a fulllife l time had been swept away."said P n Penrod, thousands many thousands of lives went out,and the dismal days of horror following for the hundreds of thousands of marooned with the raging catastrophe raging below and around them found a stricken population in their top story windows or house tops paralyzed and helpless. If it had not been for the protecting log jam formed northwest of the city, the whol of of Mildred greenburg would have been totally engulfed and fared the same fate as Abbiann, in fact it did in all degrees, except the wipingout of the population.every hour the situation had changed for the worst, ad the mind of many of them had become dazed midst the gruesome scenes.The papers told a lot of the horror there, telling of the bodies of the human beings, the corpses of animals, being amist the floating wreckage on every hand.The flood in and outside the wrecked city had been filled with them and the tide swept everything before it l ike jellyfish.Here the papers said a face protruded above the water, there could be seen the foot of a child, here the long silken tresses of a little girl, there a tiny hand or foot, and just beneath the glassy surface of the water full out lines of bodies were seen.So such scenes while marooned on house tops and upper stories drove men and women and others to desperation and frenzy and even to insanity.I read that it was said a number half crazed sought freedom from the very horror in the death, which before they had fought so stoutly. I read in the papers that a young boy and girl together who survived to find

mother, father and sisters, dead crept far on the ledge of a housetop and before anyone could stop these crazed pair, they threw themselves into the flood

I have heard that during the flood, and even afterwards, a great deal of looting was done to the city by daring dare devil Glandelinian vandals.At the first outbreak of the dreadful inundation all the stores had been closed, their owners leaving to look after their families.We all know the flood had forced in all the windows, and left the goods pray to the Glandelinian ghouls. Even while floating on the surface of the flood it was said that these vandals going about in boats stripped the bodies of the jewelry and articles articles of value.Nothing could be done to stop them while the flood was raging but after the flood subsided the city was placed under martial law. Thousands also of desperate men were said to have roamed the streets crazed with liquor which many had been compelled to drink or die of thirst because nothing else could be obtained.Numberless bottles and boxes of intoxicating beverages were scattered about and easy to obtain."

"I thought there was no vandalism in the ruined cities."said Jane."At least I heard there wasn't."

"There was plenty"said Gertrude."The robbery continued for days, and as the town was in too fierce a ruins the authorities who attempted to control the lawless elements was not successful.The papers said that big bon fires were built after the recession of the flood, at various places from heaps of rubbish to enable the surviving men citizens and the troops the better to see where watchfulness was needed. The papers had written that more than one thousand looters were slain in the city. yet the most rigid enforcement of the martial law was not able to supress the robbery.I have read that eighty three Glandelinians with valuables taken from dead bodies were tried by court marshall.They were convicted and ordered to be shot.I read that one Glandelinian vandal had twenty eight hundred human fingers with rings on them in a satchel he carried."

"I was going to leave by train for our camp, and was at the station when the worst of the flooood camup."said Joy St Claire."There were sixteen or eighteen hundred people in the depot not to catch trains but to escape the ever rising flood, and we all remained there for sixteen days.The back part of the building on a high elevated viaduct was broken in on Sunday Sunday morning.The streets below the railroad station at Mildred Greenburg were literally filled with dead and dying people, and animals. I saw a Sisters Orphan Asylum go to pieces before my very eyes, and it was a terrible scene. I saw over three hundred and ninty six children go floudering into the water and drown, and along with them fourteen sisters.To save ourselves we were fored to seek a roof of a higher building.We were then rescued.."

"I believe the horrors at Mildred Greenburg broke all records."said Penrod."Outside of Abbiesann it was the worst hit for all large cities. The situation indeed ba beggered all description. Fully seventy five or more per cent of the whole city was wrecked.Along the river wharf fron te great river steamers had been bodil bodily dumped on the big piers and still lay there. I heard great masses of iron and wood that even fire could never totally destroy..All the magnificent and greatest warehouses along the immense river front were said to have been smashed in on one side, and gutted throughout their whole length,their contents either piled in heaps or along the streets. The papers gave the great number of the small river tugs, sailing vessels, that had jammed themselves into buildings, where they were lan ded by the force of the flooood, and then left by the receding waters .."

"I saw how so many houses not belonging to the city but brought by the flood were packed and jammed in great confusing masses in all the northern streets and some way in."said Gladys. Also"also great piles of human bodies, dead animals, rotting vegetation, household furniture, and fragments of the houses themselves were piled in confused heaps right in the main streets of the city, and these broken sections came from other flood swept towns.I saw in the very flood waters human bodies and those of animals floating round like cordwood."

"The whole flood as far as it has extended has lasted for weeks."said Gertrude. "And so far as the time has been passing on, the terrible truth was being pressed home on the minds of all the surviving people and throughout Calverinia and the other states too that the awful mortality of the or by the flood had possibly reached 18,000,000 or nearly one furth of the entire population in the flooood swept district.However the exact number, and an awful big one it is too will never be known, as no list of the dead can ever be made out for we are all sure that the terrible waters had carried to sea or washed on idistant and lonely shores hundreds of thousands of the bodies.Therefore the unknown

dead of this dreadful explosion and flooood disaster will forever and ever far surpass the fearful number of all those who are known or believed to have perished those awful days and nights, when the floods raged.."

"It sure is being and still is being one of the most fearful and record breaking catastrophes of all time."said Minnie herself.Though"Though the amount of property will never be known it is nevertheless the slightest of all compared to the known loss of life.That toowhich makes this flood so dreadful and sh such a shocking horror to the whole world is the terrible fact that it swept away more lives than did all our battles of the war so far I'm sure it did,and has transformed a righ, and holy and properous country for more than 10,000 miles into a vast charnel house.Jo Abbiesann is or was situated or located on the Mic-Hollister and Pandora Railroad, seventy eight miles north west of Wickey Lansin, and was at the time of the disaster or before the disaster a city big enough to have held 100,000,000 people, but had only eight million. Did that many really perish I wonder?"

"No one can say anything on that subject." said Jean herself, as she sat up straighter to ease her shoulder which was giving great pain."But the--- the- --the----inhabitants at least that many are all missing----so they--- say.It was the most important of all our Calverinian and Abbiesann ian cities annihilated and as such will be given soon I believe---- a popular title by which the disaster will be known."

"The country through which the flooood first swept"said Dolores has always been famous for the extreme beauty of its scenery.Through there ran the Norma Run River which there resembled in a general way an open curved hook before continuing on running from Talisaann, where the flood first struck, then turned in a southwesterly direction to St Francis, thence sixteen miles south east to New St Francis where the more terrible effects of the flood manifested itself and changed the river into a monsterous sea.."

"But" asked Jack, who was now sitting up."Where in the world did all the water come from!Was it never discovered?"

"It sure was,"said Penrod with a grim smile"It proves the flood too was as horrible in southern Abyssinkile."

"In Southern Abyssinkile!"they all chorushed.

"In deed"smiled Penrod, more wickedly"It had its source there."Here's the paper if you do not believe it.It was investigated, the flood was followed by many investigators. They were astonished at what they found and ---well read it you girls, and you Jack and don't look so wide eyed."

This is what they all saw;

"The cause of the flood or where it came from is certainly most astonishing. An enormous lateral valley extends about sixteen hundred miles in extent, and begings from Trinity Town in a southwesterly direction, at the head of which was located the Trinity Lake reservoir owned and used by all Abyssinkilian people as summer resorts and game and fishing clugs clubs. In altitude this lake was about three hundred feet above the valley level and it was about one hundred and fifty five miles wide, and three hundred miles long at the widest spot.And in manyplaces it was hundreds nay some places two thousand feet deep and was the largest reservior in the whole nation .The dam that restrained the waters was nearly eighteen miles in length, one hundred feet high one hundred and eighty feet or yards thick at the base and one hundred ten feet wide at the top which was used as a drive way for railroads.This wall cost the Abbiesannian nation tens of billions of dollars in its construction. This dam ever since it was built was never a menance to any of the lower Abyssinkilian districts not even in time of freshets and was more than usual than fully equal to all ordinary emergencies.Neither was the dam weak in any portion of its structures it had more than sufficint means of discharging a sup surplus volume, and never was it needed to be found under any condition that such a reservoir even situated in sucha region of freshets would ever yeild to the enormous pressure, and sent all over the country its restless waters like a tidal wave to devastate the whole country. The dam was over fifty yars old and the engineers who had seen to its construction sure had wise plans in the construction.But it did break on the night of June the First as all the State soon reported.There is no dam in the world no matter how strongly constructed that can withstand any vibrations or shocks of great violence which occured that dreadful night of June.It was reported that the break came at the moment or a few moments after the last three loudest explosions occured at Abbiesann.It did not open like gates, as some suppose but was undermined nearest its foundation by the shocks, and when the break occured the whole wall was to have fallen either gradually or at once.From the statement of witnesses forest of trees were hurld high into the air by the force of the descending waters, and the vast boiling and roaring flood rushed down the hilly lan dscapes like a lake racing down a precipice.

No one says how long it took for the water to finally empty out of the immense reservoir, but it was predicted whether accurately or not that in less than five or six minutes the flood had reached Abyssinkilia city, and the new finally changing the direction of its course, swept through the wide Norma Run valley wiping out scores of towns.With the procession of the deluge which had become a hundred miles wide then, forests of trees, logs from log jams and camps, debris of the buildings of all the towns, rocks, railroad iron tins engines tracks, cars, and a most indescribable mass of drift were more and more compact for battering power beyond description in force, and therefore what the advance hors of the floooood spared, the masses or seas of swiftly racing wreckage jams in the rear made up of countless widrows of whirling madly sweeping battering ruins destroyed.The distance from this dam to Lake Mic-Hollaster which shore Abbiann was on something over one hundred and eighteen miles was traversed in about six hours, and the flood roared into the beautiful lake, overwhelming the beautiful body of water, turning it into a raging sea.It therefore bursts its own bounds, the waters in waves like the sea in a storm tore away Abbiann and here where the loss of life and damage to property had been simply appalling because th of the concussi before was believed to have been made total by the flood.The beautiful lake tore through its levees and some survivors of uppoer upper Abbiann who passed through the experience sattly tell of its horrors to have been far beyond the power of words to narrate.The waters did not sweep away Abbiann.

For one of the most striking features of the horror was the jam of wreckage from the many other towns that was hurled against the half thrown buildings of the immense and beautiful buildings, . Here this impenetrable tangled mass and seas of tangled houses, trees and other debris piled up literally in inextricable confusion in the waters,and packed to solidity by the torrent which carried them forward like a sea of battering rams strook the city of Abbiann from north ad west and from the lake and carried all before it.It was said that mingled with the mass were countless thousands of human bodies.

It proved uterly impossible for anything w to withstand the confused heap, which was finally sweeping away goodportions of the city; and which added by others from Abbiann was scattered all over the flood district of formed in one vast long and high dam north of Mildred Greenburg."

"This then reveals the mystery of the flood"said Jean ."Nature for some good reason or other has never smitten any of our Calverinian cities with fire, cyclone or earth very often, and therefore who can account for this immense disaster.I'm positively sure that the three biggest disasters, Lake Silicia, this forest fire, and the Abbiann horror are the greatest of all and illustrates most completely the irresistible strength of natural forces even when produced as we suspot by the enemy.We will always continue to pray that when they make the attempt Violet, and her sisters, or those that help them will find out whether it really was of Nature or whether the enemy was the one respon sible. "

CHAPTER THIRTY FOUR!..

HOW THEY DESCRIBE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GREAT FLOOD. VAST FLOW OF THE INUNDATION. TALKS ON SLAVERY AND THE PAST HORRORS OF WAR. HORRORS OF CHILD SLAVERY.

SOME time later Gertrude took out the map of the flood which she herself with others had drawn and telling others or those who could not come close in order to see said;

"I made this map with the purpose to reveal to us all the size formation and extent of the flood.This flood which had now covered a lot parts of the southern states as well by now will be often characterized as a striking parse parrasolal between bodies of flood waters and the seas west of us. Each of these strange water seas of the flood included in this general and strange classification can hereafter in the future be well defined geographically. The flood was made Abbiann and through Bengall State in entirely enlarged in a half form or like a Horseshoe circle by a continuous shore and submerged forest except between the extremities of the Bengal County and the points east.Lake Mic-Hollaster is still a perfect Mediterranean even beyond this region is the border of the great mountain chain.The flood therefore seems to have a much more broken shore line than usual and many gateways and therefore is like some huge sea.If we want to call them that its western and southeastern shores from the region of Angelinia Agathia to Dorothy Gale are continuous indeed but so irregular in their countour and so indented by"great bays" and gulfs as to leave no suggestion of symmetry.

The northern and eastern limits of this dreadful flood on the other hand, are marked by island barriers, or what we may call islands, hundreds of them being only the highest elevations of plains meadows and other rises of ground which has not been entirely submerged; and here is one set of submerged or half submerged ground sweeping in a great curve from the westernmost extremeli extremity of Abbiann region to the higher landscapes on which the half submerged town of Wickey Landin is situated.Four of these elevations on which are situated the town of Cubiania; Jamican; Hido Anders, and Georgetown forming the northern barrer of resistance to the flood between Bengall State and Calverinia are known to be as the greater horror when the flood began, while the remaining ones connecting Abbiannian regions with the southeastern region of Abbiann are known as the first region of the flood.All chains and groups of cities and towns in this region have been submerged or swept away, Abbiann being the point of division.These flood wave waters the therefore are the biggest ever known in anypoint of the world for many persons and even scientists have and are examining the region from every point of view and with every extreme dea detail; and by careful soundings everywhere, and by the use of all kinds of instruments many noteworthy discoverds are being made continually which are recognized as of the utmost importance to the countrys cause in the efforts to find out the cause and sur source of the flood."

"And generally speaking"said Penrod, the waters further north are comparatively shallow but in middle Bengall State and throughout Calverinia the water is remarkably deep.Just south of Big Girlknool is the deepest part.Just thirty one miles south of Big Girl Knool as the papers had said soundings showed a depth of three hundred feet.The waterbust be over a deep depression or valley in that locality.No other example is or will ever be found in the whole world of such an enormous difference of depth in such floods.And the powerful currents of this flood are of peculiar interest.Both the flood raging over southern Calverinia, and through Northern Angelin ian States are sufficientlyopen to admit the admit the regular flow of the great flood streams, but numerous counter currents, and eddies of powerful force which we have mapped are caused by obstructions, submerged towns and cities, and by the irregular coastlines of the flood.The vast volume of the central flood which is flowing steadily southwestward is not according to soundings made entirely deflected southward as at first supposed when it strikes the ground depressions for a considerable portion passes between the greater cities, and continues on a sort of westerly course across Angeline Vine state.Some of these branches of the flooood converging into new ones of or over our greater rivers find their way to the sea."

"You are right."said Dolores as she looked the map over closely."However see Penrod; an enormous mass of the flooood passes as the papers say at a vel c velocity of from two to three miles an a minute through southern Calverinia and washes through the Aronburgs Run Regionsit extends even south of the rivers delta forming the whole too into a turbid flood which there is impelled in a straight line westward by the force of the deluge behind.These mighty forces are Uniting.Here at the Narrowest part between Vivian Wickey and Francis Atlanta the stream is said to be contracted to a width of sixty five miles.tj In this contracted channel the velocity varies from two to six miles an hour and the ammount of water passing by has been so far estimated to be one hundred and seventy five billoions of cubic feet a second or 15260 trillions per day.Such proportions of the flood even there are impossible to grasp for they represent a mass equal to about three hundred thousand such rivers as the Aronburgs Run; and yet so far this has been only a small portion of the entire flood waters through the country.Therefore we have the greatest flood in the world."The force

"The force of this flood had uprooted the houses of towns like trees; the best fortresses have been demolished; all river ships have been carred in all directions over the land and all damage beyond description done by these terrible sto floods."said Gertrude.Thanks to the fact that this dangerous and most devastating flood had followed a well defined course in which all flood observers have been able to send in immediate reports to towns far off in front of the deluge in time to enable many to escape a and to pred predict with the utmost certainity the character and time of the floods arival.""Now "said Penrod we are in the midst of the most frightful war ever on record.What awful memories of the past; and strange scenes that now come floating beforeour vision:As we look back in the into the awful History of this dreadful war a shadowy processionof dreadful figures presents itself. These floods and forest fires; explosions; disasters hundredfold; the millions of christian children exterminated by the ravaging clandelinians; the horrible murders; the frightful story of the continued clandelinian slave trade; the millions of white child slaves sent here and there to a death that even the Saints would shrink from; and of the clandelinian shipping taking to sea like water dogs and challenging all christian enemies in their own special domain and everywhere refugees have encounted Clandelinian armies gorged with plunder and wading in blood .The clandelinian raiders on the sea are worse than the pirates of old.The seas are supposed to be the cradle of the naval empire of Abbiesnnia; in these waters we know already near the Belngirlon...an islands fearful battles were fought; and one christian fiat a perfect Armada had driven through the chanels of these islands to wreck and ruin:Had this fleet been successful against the foe there would not need be a seige of Wickey Wickey to day and we would easily be inpossession Both sides wicked clandelinia and Abbiesnnia a good christian Nation are now fighting desprately for the ocean empire; and so far the papers say Clandelinin is winning it; and that too on her own politicians hearts had re led them; when through her rebellion against Abbiesnnia she has lost fifteen of her richest and most propperous colonies; when all the powers of the christian world is combining to disgrace and humiliate her.It was then that Admiral Caldwell shattered our great christian fleet under the Admirals Mc-Hollester and Zimmermann in the region of Wickey Bay just a few weeks past; saved the sea board of Vivian Wickeys great Gibralatar and avenged Delight's junction: It does seem that Mildreds words may be true that we are losing."

"Never has even the most cruel actions of Nature for the last fourteen Centuries ever made the beautiful lands of southern Abbiesnnia scenes of such disturbance, cruelty and suffering as this war has done."said Angeline Hiches: "Earthquake, volcanic eruptions; and the Hurricanes of the Mic-Whirthian seas have been only a slight portion contributed by Nature; indeed the most slightest portion; but this savage warfare; Clandelinian raidsupon our shores, flood and fire, slaughter of child slaves by brutal treatment or massacre; the horrors of the child slave trade going on still and our fearful battles is our share in the catalogue of this awful turmoil;These are sure chapters of horror which occur at too frequent intervals but surely our country is not at fault.We did not want the war; and we did not begin the war either."

"It seems we did."said Jane.

"How?"

"We started it by our attacks on Crowley and Jennie Wren Town early in the year of 1912."

"But the enemy invaded that portion of Angelin in State; and it was so they captured the towns."said Gertrude.

"Well we are in the right just the same;"said Jack:"Even so as the records show that dangerous Hattie had even went forth with great armies to win the Abbiesnnian crown" and as the saying is to show the world how weak is the"pretentious Abbiesnnian power in all these countries.The stories of the exploits of these Clan delinian generals have already spread over the whole world."

"Everybody by now hates Clandelinia"said Jean"for she is not relaxing her wicked grasp on her own vast con quests over other nations.Her motto is"Down with the Christian world and its "Folly" and this is a challenge n ot only to us; but to the enmity of every nation;already I have seen by the news the enemy has seized the towns of St Christopher; and Kitts in N orthern and Western Angelinia State; and is running all the christians out of N evis state western Angeline vines;At the same time it happened that the fiercer Clandelinians have driven the National armies from another vantage point while some for general by the name of Laughtington Hall has captured the town of Jamaica.The population toavoid the horrors of meeting with a foe army of this kind fled to Calverinia;The conditions of the flood is preventin g armies from coming to resist them;indeed it does seem as if the war is progress ing progressing in the favor of Clandelinia."

"Well so it may be just now"said Mildred Herself;"I always felt it would and kept saying so to Jane for I never let a news paper slip me if I could help it;Dreadful volcanic eruptions; all over the world, earthquakes, and hurri canes as we all know have made merciless onslaughts upon the inhabitants of many if not all nations; but they have in truth been nothing at all in comparison with the appalling cruelty and destruction that the Clandelinians in this war has visited upon our own beloved states;While unknownnumbers have perished throughout the world through the convulsions of nature, it is conservatively estimated that not less than fifty five millions have already perished in the battles fought here; not counting the horrible loss of life in the floods; and disasters; and such awful massacres of children and people we have heard of;"

"It is absolutely certain that there were near six million children that perished at the hands of the brutal Clandelinian soldiery; and manymore in the horrible child slavery;"declared Angeline Jennie J Jennings;Whole towns had been depopulated by the Clandelinians using women and children as targets in the way that sportsmen shoot birds from the traps;I have heard that the Clandelinians have fed dogs on children and infants; or captured wolves and fed children to them;In the slave horror throughout Clandelinia for all the years before the war the boys were condemned to labor and perish in the mines; factories and in digging trenches; and the little girls to expire in the fields;And neither groans; tears nor the tenderest ca'ls of Nature nature could move their unfeeling oppressors to relax their tyranny;And their provis o provisions were dealt out to them in such stinted quantities that they seem better calculated to protract existance and to lengthen their misery rather than to enable them to live; Little girls expired under the pressure of hunger and fatigue;And all were shriveled and contracted with famine;;To our smaller and defenseless towns and villages these Clan delinian hordes home came like most cruel tigers,wolves and lions are g enraged with a sharp and cruel hunger;For these many years before the war was inc nothin g else but the slaughter of these unfortunate slaves whom with divers kind of torments neither seen nor nor heard of before the Clandelinians have before this war came have crually and inhumanly slain and butchered;Of the population of the infested territory of Jan-in did contain; there seemed to be only remainin alive scarce three hundred persons;And for the n otherportions of Angeline the state it lies wholly ruined;Other counties are waste and desolate; All other sections near by fertile as a heaven and temperate in air are n ow totally unpeopled and destroyed;I know of many others places that are totally deserted because of the fear of the enemy;For these two years of this war wherein the Clandelin ians have exercised these abominable cruelties there have innocently perished so some write a above twelve million souls women and children being in this fatallist;And with the almost total extinction of these people; and the destruction of slaves or their running away to seek freedom came the assumed "necessity"or other child slaves; and the child slave trade was ren ewed;Even from unknown source the importation of child slaves had continued to increase an d they have been brought in to Clandelinia at the ever average rate of two thousand a week;It is estimated that i not less than five million child slaves were brought into the very Clandelinian states during the course of the slave trade during the war;It is also the policy to use up the cheaper slaves by hard labor and ill treatment especially those of a "cheap co modity but many of them by the help of the battles have escaped to the christian armies;"

"Yes, and while the rival armies are annihilating one anothers troops"said Joy"whole communities of ei-xslaves have been able to flee to the interior of the christian territories."

"And the horrors of this dreadful war does not frighten them but causes many of the elder ones, to try and join as scouts, and the daring of these child slaves when given these vocations would in themselves fill volumes. We have seen a pt typical example of many. Yet the pitiful tales of the horrible massacres of children can be told by coming to fields where these horrors have happened and where thousands of small skeletons would be seen strewing the ground.Never in any conflict in all the worlds history have nations been as cruel as these Glandelinians.And yet it seems as if the christian troops canot dislodge the infernal Glandelinians from the land and large sums ofmoney have alr ady been expended in this warfare against Glandelinia."

"I remember a scene of surprising horror which I witnessed at the battle of Delight's Junction on the right wing."said Gertrude."Two divisions of regular troops and the whole militia of the right wing under general Turner attempted to dislodge the enemy from a point called Pine H Grove.This point was held by the Glandelin ians under Mylstse and we sure know him well.No force of troops could be sent forth against him but he knew it in time to lay an ambush or descend with fire or sword on a region left unprotected.His army was always supplied with arms and ammunition, and as all his men were perfect marksman never wasted a shot, and never ran from a field of battle h s forces naturally increased while while those of his opponent were decimiinated. In thatportion of the battlefield the rebels had every topographical adventage for they held possession of a ground known as the ""Cockpits. These lands were furrowed through and through as if by an earthquake with a series of gaps and ravines.These chasms varied from two hundred yards to three miles in length the rocky walls were fifty and a hundred feet high and some parts absolutely inaccessable, while the passes at each end admitted but one man at a time.They were thickly wooded wherever trees could grow, water flowed within them, and they up often communicated with one another forming a series of traps for an attacking force.Was it not strange then that our highest military surthorities at that period pronounced the capture of these positions a thing more difficult than to obtain a victory over hell.Nothing but shear weariness of fighting for thepossession of the position brought about a stoppage at last, and Turners losses had been awful.In his attack he was miserably defeated,an had to even fly for his life ,amid a p rfect panic of the troops in which some four hundred thousand were killed.The only gener l who was able to cope with the peculiar tatics of Mylstses generals was major general Charles Brown.He led his troops farther into the hump hostile region. than any of the assailants could have ever thought of penetrating in the face of the enemys deadly fire.With the greatest difficulty he had penetrated nearly four miles, after very exhausting and desperate fighting.So far but no further, no force could endure it longer or press on , no one could go beyond that.Therefore by night time he had to recoil under cover of darkness. I have understood that during that battle the inhabitants of Delight's Junction were in a constant state of terror, for assassinations, massacres, and the sacking of places had been constantly occuring.As we all know after four days raging along Sunbeam Creek, along an extensive line, from Jennie Vivian Town to Evangelinia Cranis the battle came to an end.Yet as we might all know girls,and you good boys that b ttle of Delight's Junction or Sunbeam Creek its terrors, its frightfuln ess will always constitute one of the most romantic and thrilling features of the western Drama of this great war."

"I think"said Penrod from what is heard an rw read of terrible depredations fiercer than even the worst piracy is being done by the Glandelinian privateers along our own con sts towns towns and along the shore."

"Yes that is true"said Mildred."The Glandelinians are contributing as much in the way of thrilling and shocking as well as dramatic interest to the horrible stories of even our Blengiglomenean Islands and along the whole western coasts of Calverinia and Angelinia as elsewhere as any other element of Glandelinias wicked activity there. Even though they are Glandelin ians who has not read of theirmost daring and desperate deeds, their bloody raids their life of alternate battle and frightful carouse, and their cru crueltiss.Among them all there seems to be a thousand Morgans, and a 100,000 John P aul Jones."

"Hardly an island once in the possession of ou countryur country is now their strong ren dezvous, their prey, or the scene of their most terrible debaucheries."said Angeline Richs."And it is said they go in peaceful harbors to bring their craf's for repairs then to steam off again for another attack on our treasure ships, steamers, transports and the like.Fortunately it seems though they do not raid ships flying foriegn flags."

"But they w n won't because they are not at war with Glandelinia"said Elsie. "I know some vtime ago the Glandelinians took possession of the island of St Christohper one of the Blengins, and afterwards the smaller island of St John n near the northwest end of the big one known as St Peter which n ow is considered the headquarters of the Glandelinian privateers."

"Y-s it was stated the Glandelinians in great force surprised the island of St Christopher while most of the male inhabitants were absent in being in the army and frightfully massacred all who fell into their hads, even wom n and children.The children were tortured to death.The Glandelin ians then has garrisoned the island.As the hostility of these Glandelin ian privateers is solely directed against us, all other nations are foolishly regarding them as champions in their own wicked cau se, and the severe p unishments which our governments are directing against them however des n ot bri ng fromany of th christiannations any sympathy, but it inflames the Glandelinians with thirst for revenge nevertheless."

Yes, and therefore"said Mary, "their numbers are speedily recruited by all men not in the glandelinian army and the persuits of such dreaful hunting and cruising are now being followed with redoubled vigor and a frightful sum submarine warfare too is on against our own shipping.Their unparalleled exploits are causing great terror along all our coasts and port towns."

"The Glandelinians seem to have entirely giving themselves over to pr piracy like hunting."said Dolores."The island of St Peter so far of the Blengins seems or is their great resort, and as no christian attacking fleet could expel them from that big island, they have destroyed all cattle and hogs in order to render the business of the foe unproductive hoping to drive the Glandelinians off.And the extermination practised upon all christ ian wom n and children in the islands when ever they fell into the hands of these wicked Glandelinians is claimd by the Glandelin ian s as a standing ad praiseworthy law among all Glandelinian surthorities as long as the war contin ues rages while it does and will naturally preduce produce an awful sanguinary retaliation on the part ofour own christian raiders as I have heard.The cruelties of the Glandelinians were being much circulated throghout the world in the form of the news papers and the popular stords and is pro ducing a great effect. Hanson Pierre was on e of the famous leaders of these dangerous Glandelinian raiders.It was said, that in a boat with only 20 men he surprised and took the christian ship of the vice admiral of the Abbt ennian cruiser fleet.He did not however like other Glandelinians disgrace his exploits by a massacre for he sent the christiancrew on shore near the Glandelinian coast and carried his prise saftly to Glandelinia."

"This shows "said Mary Stanck"what this war is coming to"for I have often heard that these Glandelinian" buccaneers are becoming so formidable that that several Angelinian towns have even been forced to submit to pay them regular contributions to keep them from destroying their towns.These rebel pirates are commanded by a man by my last name, I do not know his first and who is followed with equal alacrity by others and who seem to be more succ essful and more ambitious than any glandelinian raider or privateer leader who had ever preceded him.Often so the repor ts come in he had formed plans for founding a an independent privateer establishment, and at the head of fifty thousand men took the Blen giglomenean Island of Santa Lucia for that purpose from the christian garrisons there, and finally garrisoned it with 100,000 Glandelinian marines, and 1 all the child slaves he had taken.."

" I have heard"this stanck person"said A g Angeline Jennings "is the most fortunate leader among the Glandelinian privateer fleets.He has many ships and several hundred thousand men under his command, and once he took and plundered the coas coast town of St Francis in Angelinia State..They say this Glandelinian ch ieftian has shown such wonderful bravery,, and made such wonderful addresses that everything else was overshadowed by the shocking cruelties he has committed on many expeditions..In the attacks on many forts along our shores he has often compelled priests, nuns, child slaves, captive children, wom n and young girls and even monks all his prisoners to carry and plant the scaling ladders against the walls, and many of thesepoor p victims were killed by their own countrymen who defended the forts. A town that had made a bold resistance on surrendering was set on fire and burned to the ground with the garrison in it.Many prisoners even little children and priests and nuns have died under the shocking cruelties that the Glandelinians have inflicted on them to make them reveal concealed treasur es and property, which frequently had no existance save in the op cupidy of the imagination of the wicked Glandelinians."

"This stanck had once almost suffered a sort of disaster on one of his expeditions."said Jane Mellfort."In the brilli ncy of his success he catured one large christian war cruiser, with the commander and crew which he placed as prisoners on board his ship.However noone can tell whether it was from the carelessness of the man placed on board the captured ship, or whether it was revenge from on e of the Angelinians but somhow the ship was blown up and nearly fifteen hundred Glandelinians perished with this captured ship."

"One expedition"he made"said Dolores was an attack on Marcucian, and also Grabo which unfortunate towns were sacked.And these merciless Glandelinian desperadoes went and shut up their prisoners all men woman and children in Catholic Churches, and such little care was taken of them that many of these unfortunate captives were actually starved to death in the cnu churches, while the dirty Glandelinians w r were revelling in their dwellings.Yet on this coccassion this Glandelinian admiral had come near being destroyed especially on his return from these places, for the Angelinians had had time to put in order a strong line of shore earthworks lined with cannons at the entrance to the bay of the town, and many large war cruisers and battle ships had arived and stationed themselves by the town to cut off the Glandelinian admirals retreat.But the Admiral fitted up one of his hugest but weakest vessels as a fire ship in which were stuckmany logs of wood to look like cannons, and placed dummies dressed as soldiers on the decks and also in which everything was made to bear the appearance of a common fighting ship.Following close in the rear of this mute crew he saw ten of the christian cruisers blown up in the frightful battle that followed with his fleet, and he took the other ships, and made the flagship strike its colors.He then passed the two opposite shore batteries without loss by the means of a stratagem, and then blew the batteries in the air by his terrific gunfire from the ships. Early last yeard year after this expedition h e he had resolved to undertake some unusally grand expdition of which would win a great victory for his country.He had thirty seven cruisers in his possession having on board altogether two thousand men per ship, and he had planned and did attack near Vivian Wickey to try and break the seige of the christian fleets. .Hisplans however had been captured before he made the attempt and that showed that in preparations to this dangerous undertaking, the scoundrel employed child slaves by hundreds to help him raid on cattle, and cure meat,and also sent vessels to procure ammunition.And for the distrubit distribution of the plunder they were to obtain, specific articles of agreement were drawn up and subscribed to.Admiral Stanck as commander in chief, a regular Morgan, was to recieve one hundred part of all, those who should be maimed and wounded would be provided for by the Government, and additional rewards were promished for all those who in the battle would particularly distinguish themselves by their bravery and conduct. It was on the sixteenth of last December girls as I read in the papers that this Glandelinian fleet set sail, and on the 29th they took a town but losing nearly twenty hundred men killed, and four thousand wounded.Of the three thousand five hundred Angelinin Angelinians who composed the garrison all were said to have been cruelly massacred..This town had been fortunately defended with regular fortic fortifications and therefore had giventhe enemy considerable loss but in most other parts the city had lain open, and t had to be won and defended by plain and desperate fighting.When the Glandelinians had first approached, the garrison had come out to meet them proceeded by strong bodies of cavarly which rode upon the attackers. to disorder their ranks.But these Glandelinians were too well anquainted with christian cara cavarly to be discomposed by them, and the cav arly had a made no effect whatever.The christians however must have made an obstinate resistance for the papers said it was night before they gave way and the Glandelinians became masters of the cith city.During the long battle n and indeed and all that next day and night the Glandelinians were reported to have given no quarter.All the garrison fell and all the populat ion of the town had been made prisoners."

"What did they do to the prisoners?"asked Gertrude.

"Well the Glandelinians remained in the town for about four weeks after the takin g of the town, and then Stanck and his men departed from the still mouldering ruin s, taking with them horses and mules by thousands loaded all with spoil, and sixty thousand prisoners, part of whom were detained to carry burdens across the country to the flast fleet near the shore. There were many women and children among them who were made to suffer cruel fatigue hunger and thirst cold and hardships,, and actfully being made to apprehend being carried to Glandelinia and sold as slaves.It was in vain that these poor creatures threw themselvesxon their knees, and weeping and tearing the hair beggi begged of the Glandelinians to let them free but the brutal

admiral answered"That he shows no mercy to "chiristian dogs"."As soon as these scoundrels reached their fleet I'll bet a division was made of the booty for the plans made and according to the proportions agreed upon.These Glandelinian"buccaneers will I'm sure keep up these depredations as long as the war lasts, as so many ships of our own country are needed to break down Vivian Wickey and other points none is able to be sent against them."

"No matter what has happened in this dreadful war"Said Mary Glorinia"This flood is absolutely the most violent catastro he that ever occured in an y part of the world.All the river ships in every river town, large and small as evidence shows had been seized and torn, and also shifted and scattered about the country like paper boats many sunk or stranded completely. many thrown high and dry amongs amongst the trees of the wreckage wrenched ad torn up forests, and others hurled one on the other pellmell in the most frightful confusion.The papers have shown some of the towns that partly survived the deluges, and the pmers showed that there w s was hardly a house that was not even intact, ad besides the unknownloss of life attendant attendant on the shipwrecks large numbers of people had been killed by falling ruins or drowned in the flood. A picture gave the evidence that the scene in the once well known river harbor of Francis Atlanta was frightful.In every direction masts of all kinds of ships appeared above water only, standing up as any one of us might think they looked like blades of grass in a field.Immense and small pieces of wreckage thickas log booms or jams, boats, floating houses, spars, cases of cargo,and debris in every shape covered the water of the floocod in a manner that describes all or beggars all description.And ships of all kinds and sizes were shown in the picture scattered about in all kinds ofpositions, indeed sometims in the most incongruious situations one a large str eamer which the pmer said was named the Tame Dove, had taken up its station amongst the remains of a br grove of trees far above the flood highest mark ad after it receded .In another part of the harbor of this city along the eastern end of the now floating docks were four ships piled literally one on the other.One a big river schooner of some fifteen hundred tons ,was seen to go down against the dock wa ad and was during the height of the l flood lyin g entirelyunder water, no part of her showing, on her lay a Angelinian barque of four hundred tons with parts of one top mast above water, on her again, the Sand erman and a river steamer each of two thousand tons, and on top of all and resting on the last named though herself half under water was the hufe Abbieannian river war cruiser of threeee thousand tons."

"I was one of those who experienced the shocks which were thought at that time to be earthquakes."said one of the girlscouts."To I and my parents during the wholeof those dreadful fifteen minutes the shocks seemd to have continued without intermission.We were not exactly in positive terror of our own lives for we had fled to a large open square which were in front of our house, but we did believe the shocks to be earthquakes, yet we believed that unless the earth would open and swallow us up wer we were positively safe.But mother and father wondered for we did not hear an y rumbling under ground, and though the houses swayed we hardly felt any such thing known as a trembling of the ground.However at intervals sometimes of two or three min utes, for about fifteen minutesvwe did hear some sort of booming noise usually terminating into a louder roll, but it sounded in the atmosphere and not underground and each time the sound was heard the whole town vibrated, but only each tim of the sound, makingall rush simultaneously into the open air, while the whole place resounded with the cries of the terrified population, and the crash of fallin g walls.From one to fifteen or sixteen after one I believe we felt no less than seventy distri distinct shocks, without counting the smaller ones. My father said ot seemed to him to be one continuous shock all those fifteen minutes, but we felt nothing however equal to the terrible last shakes which ended the strange convulsion, though our utter ignorance of what was to come next or whether a still more severe shock would not level the whole town to the ground the next moment formed not the least portion of our dreadful miseries.At twelve min utes after one the heaviests of these strange shocks occured, and the loudest booms were heard, the last three being the worst.Then long indeed, and terrible was that night, deep and sincere our main gratitude to God and His Blessed Mother when it had all passed/ leaving nothing but its terrible memories behind .The last shock girls was the worst for without the slightest warning, sudden as a flash oflightning, came such a shaking of the town as perhaps no town has yet ever experienced to my way of thinking.It was only two seconds duration, and with the strangeness of it was not a quivering, or a downright shaking as if there was a real earthquake, but that

sudden violent vibration which is not felt and yet sways the houses and causes damage and windows to fall to the street. It is difficult to describe the scene in the crowded square during this frightful shock. M Many fancied that some thing had grone wrong with the air but everyone was panic stricken. But girls our town was not flooded. But a captian of a ship told me his experience .He told me his crew fancied something was wrong with the machinery, and ran though this was not easy to look at the engine room. The firemen and engineers swarmed up from below, the crew were on deck in a moment, the passengers made a simultaneous rush from the hulks to the ship quarter deck. consternation one every face, and not a word was spoken till the ship was again quiet, when a murmur went round "An earthquake. Thank God it is past."

"Whatever were the cause" said Jack "They were the heaviest shocks that had been felt in any country in the memory of all history. Persons who have lived in earthquake regions allcwould have declared that such a shock surpassed anythin g of the kind that they had ever felt or heard of. I saw the town of Antigua that was entirely destroyed and also a portion of Mendoza which was leveled to the ground with terrible loss of life but never thought that a flood would be the result."

"I can remember my experiences after the shocks when I was at Mildred Greenburg "said Angeline Rae. That night after the shocks had ceased there was a little more composure among the older people who had fled into the streets, but many of the women who had seen their homes fall had become mad with fright. A terrific tornado a forthnight before whdh had ripped through aportion of the city, killing five hundred had probably terrified many of them out of or nearly out of their senses, and now when they were just beginn ing to forgetthe impression, th s this new calamity, coming in its startling suddeness quite overpowered them. Some had fallen on their knees and broke out into frantic prayers some raved about the streets in still more frantic cries and even some tore their hair and clothing to pieces in the intensity of their fear. Finally the night had passed away during which time we did not feel any more trem trembling. Many thought that the danger was over, and returned to their houses, so did we. But when it had grown lighter something like a dashing cloud of upward rising snow appeared over the l n landscape to the north. As it was so warm we could not understand how it could bepossible of a snowstorm approaching in June, but as we looked out the window, my fathers face gave a look of horror and said is a gasp "It's not snow. Look there, what's coming." We l saw looming behind an outskirt of the city like a long gigantic wall mingled with all jams of wreckage a foaming surge of water that looked like a tremendous earthquake wave rushing tward us. "T It's a flood." my mother gasped. A moment more and the wall of water reached the city and in an instant all that part within our view even at that distance was one mass of foam a hundred feet high and we saw a wall of buildings crumble before the torrent. We were on a large wooden house, and few words were spoken among us. Fortunately for us we had even some life belts in our house, which we had there just for show and we put these on. I saw many persons climb to thevtop of tall strong brick houses. The streets were again thronged with ne people who half mad with terror before became unmanageable now. About twenty persons in our own house, blind with fear rushed headlong to the roof, and their example induced two or three ladies and children to follow them. One instant before the flood struck us the houses within our view were being swept before it and one fell down nearly perpendicular. In the meantime the terrible mountain of water rolled swiftly upon us. We had five minutes or more to prepare for the shock, and it may well be imagined though it is impossible to describe how those five minutes went by. Down on our devoted house came the roaring se a full of wreckage as thick as ice floes the front of the flood literally piled up like a wall rolling upon us at the rate of three miles a min ute, with a perpendicular face of fully fourty feet. Less than this would have appalled the bravest heart. Most fortunately for us about three blocks beyond ourposition stood a tall factory six story high. This exposed to the full force of the deluge, met it l ike a wedge, and it was observed that the sea of water reached this point it broke and dropped so that when it struck our house it was perhaps not more than ten feet higher than our second story window. When the rush of water came the main force of the torrent swept around us, we were apparently then as if in a whirlpool with a roar as of a hundred Niagaras, and contrary to all expactations while all houses round us went to pieces like kindling wood our house rose to the surface of the flood and was carried along with it. The seas of water smashed the factory to ruins, breaking inpieces all wooden houses, and floated us offlike a cork. Two other wooden houses also were torn loose from their foundation, two drifted straight away like we did, and in one minute were high and dry on a rocky elevation of ground which the flood failed to top, and another sank like a stone. I saw one house with many persons in it fell to pieces just as the flood

r before the stru flood struck us, and to us it was a perfect mystery how the woman and children hung onto the fragments of it in safty, while all others were thrown instantly into the whirling waters, and all perished. Had it not been for that big factory which broke the full force of the flood it is likely that hour our houses would also have gone to pieces, and the chanci chances of saving life in that flood would have been almost none. It was impossible a at the moment of the shock from the glood to catch a word or even hear any one cr screaming. The low rumble heard on the first appearance of the flood has increased to such an extent th t that no human voice shouting the loudest would have been heard, and as we floated off with it the noise mingled with its echoes from distant hills and seemed much louder than ever. We had been occupied in watching the advance of the devouring flood that at first we had forgotten to have fear ourselves. The fury of the flood then hurled us tward and upon shor some shore. The chief danger then had passed for us but there were many refugees there where we were rescued, and the general fear that had fallen among them, restrained as it had been during the crisis by the very extent of the ermergency itself, then claimed undisputed sway.

Many were howling and crying, and stamping about the ground like so many terrified children. By degrees however a little order finally appeared through the chaoes and the confusion among the survivors finally subsided. We were sent on h ahead to a town on a high elevation, while many in the crowd who were traver hearing a rumor that the flood might reach that even hand that in view of another such convulsion, the head man considered it adviseable to advise the people of the town to flee to the hills, wi which they did, and I and my parents with them though unfortunately no time was allowed for collecting necessaries for the night as the flood rose foot by foot. Th at town was also engulfed."

"I was near or in a town that got a strange shower during the explosions," said Hettie Kornman "And I believe it was from those explosions. "It occured at night shortly after one oclock in the morning, and many of the frightened people thought a volcanic eruption had occured. The sky seemed overcast by something dark and heavy during the first thunders, and something fell as if there was a shwer, but there was no thunder or lo lightning. There was a powerful oder in the air like blasted gunpowder which prevaded the atmosphere, the distant flashes increased in vividness, and the distant thunder was of a most peculiar soun d and without the usual reverbrations cau crashing for several minutes with intermissions of so short a duration as to be scarcely recogn izable. L. After the going away of darkness it was then seen that it looked as if it had been raining mud which must have fell for about nine minutes covering the streets and the side walks to the depth of a quarter of a inch, and everything had a dull leaden aspect while the mud rolled off the houses and the leaves of the trees like big globules of clay and mud. The river which passed our town had became a raging torrent flooded flooding out town and creating great destruction its water became of a yellow color, and for four weeks after the supposed "eruption" the yellow color remained though in a decreasing degree. The scene of the nearest explosion of supposed "eruption was thirty miles from our town. We heard that a small river vessel which was about thirty four miles from the blast experianced a shower ofmud and clay in similiar in respect to that which fell in our town. Theexplosion crater wh c which I and my parents saw lies in the depth of a forest so that no loss of life occured there but for a considerable distance beyond the explosion crater the trees were destroyed, and the earth was covered seven feet deep in someplaces with earth debris and mud. Here and there stumps of blasted trees sticking up a few inches of a few feet gave a striking evidence of the force of the "eruption." Many of the stumps were quite shattered by the ejects and so were many of the trees, and in thousands of trees were found embedded large pieces of rock. On scraping away the debris from the ground at some distance from the edge of the "Explosion crater" large splinters of wood and a few bleached leaves were discovered. Beyond this zone of desolation the forest was destroyed to a most great extd extent as if by a whirlwind for we found branches of trees broken and twisted off ffo from the parent stem all which had fallen to the ground and by their weight crushed downl the forest undergrowth. Swollen steams which ran through the ravines raid radiating from the explosion district were in manyplaces dammed up with large places of rock earth and stone, and with splinters of wood. No earthquake or oconcussion was experienced by our town folk at the time of the supposed

supposed "eruption, nand beyond the peculiar thunder there were no sounds what ever similiar to the b ooming of cannon which are usually mentioned as concomitants of all manifestations of volcanic eruptions."

"Here's a written news of how the floods are evennow raging at Angelinia Agathia ad what they did."said Gertrude producing the pper."At the beginnin g of the flood some slight apprehensions had been felt by the inhabitants in con sequance of the unusual violence of the waters flowing through the streets of the city, accompanied by great moving masses of wreckage.The whole atmosphere too is hazy there with forest fire smoke, and though you can see the sun in the sky, it does not shine and always sets with a fiery appearance.At the beginning of the flood, nothing serious had been apprehended, but after ten days this pa sr reads it had increased, and at noo noon that day several houses in different parts of the city had been torn down, and ships in the flooded river were beginning to drive.One of the river frigates called by the city's n ame the only Abbieannian wooden man of war then in the river harbor, had slipped her cable and was being carrid down with the water.The paper then goes on to say that as the night approached the floods violence was increasig in fury, and though it appeared to have reached its height on midnight July the tenth, but way before that the work of destruction had commenced.The news goes on to say that the havoc which meets the eye contributes to subdue the firmest mind."

"But I thought Angelinia Agathia was not hit by any flood."said Winnie."

"It sure is." said Gertrude"But listen as I continue to tell you"The roaring of the waters, the noise of the descending torrents of water, the incrassent noise from crashing wreckage, the thundering of falling walls the dismal groans of the wounded and the dying the shrieks of despair, the lamentations of woe from the marooned, and the screams of women and children calling for help onnthose whose ears are now closed to the voice of complaint is forming an accumulation of sorrow and of terror too great forhuman fortitude, too vast for human conception.

The paper says the in habitants erre long before midnight considered it far unsafe to remain in their weaker houses, and they took to boats and rafts to avoid being buried in the ruins of walls and roofs..Horses and cattle had broken from their folds, and swimming through the dashing waters had and are increasing the scene of horror by their dismal bellowing and neighing. The fore of the flod in som of the streets is surpassing all conception .

The following morning when daylight came a scene of desolation is being presented which has never been equaled.The face of nature even seems to be completely changed, for not a single house in the lowerst part of the city however strong or sheltered has escaped damage.The wooden structures are a mass of floating wreckage, the northern part of the d city is being reduced into a heap of ruins, not more than thirty houses or stores are left standing all of which has suffered more or less, and the flood is still raging.Th e Cathedral of St Vincent with i s lofty steeple is leveled to the ground, the big town hall a prison holding Glandelinian soldiers and all other structures are sharing a similar fate.If it is not for the partial protection which a big river pier is affording, the total destruction of Angelinia Agathia will be unevoidable for so far it is breaking the main force of the flood, which is rushing with fearful impetiously against it.A ship was driven into the streets of the city aga against one of the buildings which by this shock combined by the fury of the water and battering rams of the wreckage was entirely destroyed and swept away. The loss of life so far however has been estimated at four thousand, and the loss to buildings is six million dolla rs, but what it will be if the deluge contin ues no one can tell.Most of the live stock and horned cattle has perished,the canne - corn and groundpovisions are totally destroyed, and famine will threaten those who are surviving the catastrophe.And if to increase the horror of this event despite the perils of the flood a body of eight hundred Glandelinian prisoners of war had also been liberated by the demolition of the jail and they are employed in plunder and are completing the destruction of what the f lood might spare.

More fatal in its effects is the flood now proving itself the day after.The waters commenced to rise on that day at something between ten and elevenoclock.The destruction still continues and the daylight of this friday Friday morning is showing a scene of desolation not witnessed in any flood before.The water has risen in the streets two feet more, and in many places as hi h high as five feet more.All is confusion and alarm and every body is see i seeking to escape the destruction which tottering houses, and the continued rise of the w ater is threatening.Yet as the day advanced the flood increased, driving before it wreckage and wooden houses, and the misery in the city ofers only a parrallel to the distressing scenes in the flooded country towns, many of the sugar works on the eastates are destroyed and a great number of smaller villiages are being swept away.At Tennissan

eany of the buildings were said to have sank under the ground.Never before had anyhof our cities and towns ever suffered any disaster from floods,and this flood is nearly destroying the city of Angelinia Agathia.Dorothy Gale is still a worst sufferer.All day from the first there has been an alternate rising of the waters, the movemen of the waters was awfully grand.Sometimes for unknown reasons the waters seemed to shift their direction; and at the same tim at night from the distant forest fires the horizon in the far east or north were illuminated by the quivering sheeted glare which surpasses in brilliancy anything ever seen in fler fle glarew glares before.The astonishing roar of the flood is bewildering.The banging of the wreckage would cease only a few moments at a time and in the intervals the blackness in which the city is enveloped was awful beyond expressing.Whenthe flood had raged for ten days it got so violen that it hurled before it all weaker homes, and the fragmens of every unsheltered structure of human art.The strongest houses were caused to vibrate, to their foundations and the surface of the very earth trembled trembled as this destroyer rages over it.The horrible roar of falling houses the noise of the flood like a tumultuous ocean is threatening this city also with destruction if all the other elements might spare, the clattering of floating timbers, the falling of roofs and walls and the combination of a thousand other sounds forming the most hedious din which appalls the heart and bewilders the mind. After five oclock it was hoped that the flood would soon abate but not so,, the dreadful roar did not subside, the falling of tiles and building materials which by the current was jammed against homes, the shrieks of the suffering victims, and the howling of drowning dogs were clearly heard and indeed awakens the mind to a distressing apprehension of thr the havoc and carnage which had been and were still desolating the country.There is nothing but a prospect of wretchedness and woe everywhere more replete with horrible misery and sickness to all hearts and is fiercer than even an ocean storm or a field of battle ever presented."

"I saw a strange and beautiful sight during the explosion at Jennie Vivian." "said Penod."It of course only lasted a few seconds but I remember most of it.At the first bang a storm of som thing like fiery meteors seemd tovrise upward and then fall as if from the heavens one in particular of a globular form and a deep red hue was observed to descend straight downward from a vast height.On approaching the earth with accelerated motion it assumed a dazzling whiteness and an elongated form, and dashing to the ground in our camp it splashed around in the same manner as melted ore would have done and was instantly extin extinct.

During the same instant the deafening noise of the explosion sank to a distant echoing roar,and flashes darked forkly or sparkly with no intermissions playing frightfully between the smoke clouds and the very ground with novel and most surprising avtion.The vast clouds of smoke enveloped the sky like a storm cloud and flaming blazes fell which seemed to be returned by the ground upward and this strange quivering and darting of flashes down and up could have been compared to the miniature blazes produced by the rapid and irregular discharges of opposing artillery closely engaged.while this remarkable phenomenon proceeded the earth vibrated like an earthquake during the crash of the explosions. Whatever made the flashes was a mystery, unless it was an eleoritif electrification because of the shock of the explosion."

"It couldn't be"said Gertrude"as it was in the dead of winter you know."

"I heard the explosion."said Jean for "For I was close there at the time."

"The noise was terrific"said PenrodN o thunder was at any time ever heard so loud, and had the cannon of a hundred contending armies been discharged or the fulmination of the most tre e tremendous thundercleps rattled through the air the sounds could not ha e have been distinguished."

""alking about the battles of this war"said Mildred there "there happened in an unlucky moment one of the Glandelinian divisions at Warbucks had moved forward in a grand attack tward Jennie vivian during that frightful battle.Terrible indeed for the space of fourteen hours had been the fighting and still there are said to be traces of it, cannon balls have been dug up from under the snow, or a cannons mouth will project ominiously but harmlesly out of mother earth, and trees have the showing of the battle on them.At that point Blain Nightlinger and Nemo ofour side brought that contest to a close.I canremember the cliff still from which after their last defeat in the battle large numbers of the Glandelinians flung themselves into the river Norma.The rest surrendered, and to the number ofnore than five hundred

h thousand were transported to the prison camps.Only two or three hudred thousand who after the battle had hidden themselves in inaccessable glens, emerged after eight days of retirement."

"And it is impossible to repress a feeling of regret for the extirpation of our own soldiers in one division of that army in that battle"said Jean." "Skilled in all kinds of fighting too they were, as the scanty remnant of the Corps proves to us to day. Yet it is the awful fortunes of war."

"Did any one of you among us here see any of the explosion craters near Abbieann?" asked Gertrude.

"I did."said Jean.

"You.?"

"Yes."

"Describe it please."

"Yes but I saw two"answered Jean.A steep and long tramp brought me and my friends to the edge of the larger one.It was not a circular pit but torn openas if by some mighty explosion, but it seemed two or three miles in circumference, and at the bottom below reposed a lake of muddy color.The wsides of the abyss were gradually steep or like a bare crag from top to bottom.Not a sprig of grass was seen around the edge of the crater.The "eruptions if they were any must have been immense for all the mass of earth ad rock must have been blown by these tremendous blasts from out the earth part as mud and dog debris and part shivered into thin dust which might have been carried above the clouds.When I looked down into them I wondered whether they had been eruptions or explosions."

"Some day we'll know"""said Jack.

"I seen one horrible massacre early in the war"said Winn in herself. "It happoad at a townknownas Gumps Junction."

"What hape happened there.".

"It was a scene of matchless horror, fourty thousand Glendelinians broke into the town, ad with the too torch in one hand and the sword inthe other spread dreadful slaughter and desolation around."

"G pid the Gladelinians murder women ad children too?"

"Neither age nor sex were spared, the young were cut or shot down in striving to defend their homes, the aged in the churches wo where they had flad to implore protection, virgins and young girls were immolated and unddressed on the alter and disembowled alive, weeping infants and screaming children of all ag w ages hurled into the fires, strangled, shot, or gutted alive.Amid the shrinks of the sufferers and the shouts of the victors this fnelittle town was reduced toashes its splendid churches, its stately palaces were wrapped in flames, sixty thousand humanbeings perished in the murderous massacre, and the wretched fugitives who had escaped from the scen of horror on board the river ships were guided in their passage by the prodigious light which arose from their burning homes."

"Yes, and general Francis Drakeson tried to revenge that massacre for I heard of it"said Gertrude "With the characteristic energy of this half gearal and half raider, after he hearing of the massacre a large force of men was immediately landed at a distance of about ten miles above the remains of the city, who were in obedience to general Drakes system of strategy to make an assault upon the foe by land, while he with the fleet cooperated by river.The attack was so driving and insanely violent and irrestible that panic and disorder had finally paralyzed all efforts on the part of the Gladelinian soldiers, and Drakes troops were able to carry all before them. All the troops rushed forward and found nothing in their way of their progress till the two attacking forces met in the ruins near the public square. The garrison did not stay to fire more than one volley before they fled with precipitation, and gave up the ruins of the city.Thus sixteen thousan s thousand Gladelinians were slain."

One of the boy scouts then stated"I was at El Verso when that town was engulfed and had a narrow escape withmy life.That mi midnight hour of the horrible fifteen minutes before was exceedingly hot, not a cloud was in the sky, and not a breath of air stirred.At the first boom I felt a slight trembling of my home and this shortly afterwards was followed by a second shock somewhat stronger than the first, and accompanied by a rumbling boom in the northwest which sounded like distant thunder.At this most of the people who were awakened began to run out of their houses, but a third shock at once supervended, and in about a minu minute or so four fifths of the city was being shaken topieces. Somewhat late in the morning probably near ten oclock there came such a flood of water that we thought the sea was rolling over it.We were on the top floor of a five story building, a tenement house and the streets on the northside on the brink of the river harbor where the sand had been most steeply banked up were the first to give way before the torrents, sinking or giving way at once into the terrible flood, next fell a church and tower within our sight, and then the river became a sea, and on the south side on the verge of this sea to which many had fled for s as safty suddenly disappeared,the flood rolling completely over the place where it stoood.Then to our fright the wholeportion of the town where a ship channel had been disappeared at once into deep water, while the houses near a central depression sank, someup to the third stories others were engulfed upto the first floor, and other s again one or two feet only according to the distance they were in elevation above the river.The shocks of the concussions in fact shook down the sustained banks of sand, and as the sand had been shaken down and spread out the houses subsided while now the flood rushing in underneath as well as above gushed up in spots in the streets and completed the ruins. Fort St Ann and the houses that stood upon a large rock foundation alone remained a far above the water, and of these ,in which one I was in with my parents were greatly shattered.That part only remaining stood upon this rock.It seemed strange that the fore of the flood not did not disep dissipate and disolve the very foundation of it, and that it did not fall to pieces andscatter under the water, as the rest of the place did, for the shock and rush of the floood was so swift and violent that the concussion of it threw people down ontheirknees, and also on their faces, as they ran along the water covered streets to provide for their safty, and it was a difficult matter for any one to keep to their legs.The water havened and swelled like a rolling swelling sea by which several big houses now standing were shuffled andmoved soa yards from their places.One whole street a great many of the houses which still remained standing was said now to be twice as broad now as before the disaster.The sky that morning which had been clear and blue was in a minutes time becoming dull and red looking for some strange reason or other in the east like a red hot oven, all these dreadful circumstances occuring at once accompanied all the whol while with prodigious loud noises from the wreckage floes in the flood occassioned by falling buildings, and people running from oneplace to another on the upper sections of the city, distracted with fear looking like so many ghosts, and more resembling the dead than the living made the whole so terrible that people though the thought the whole desolation of the whole universe was at hand..Indeed days after it raised sad thoughts in my mind to see the chimneys and the tops of the houses and the mass of many ships and sloops and even brigs to appear above the water, and to see so much ruin and swiftly moving waters many which by their largeness showed there had once stood an immense house, s to see so many houses shattered, som half fallen down, the rest desolate and without inhabitants, to see where houses had been swallowed up by the flood, some appearing half above water, and the others chimneys only and where once brave streets had stood, to look from the window of the house in which you were marooned and to look over that part of the land which for as far as you can see now was all raging foam and water and where many houses stood there appearing now nothing but water except here and there a chimney..I can never forget our own sensation of the shocks when we were in bed that night and felt the house shake, ad believed we saw the floor of the bed room rising, and at the same instant heard someone in the street cry"an earthquake"."Immediately we had arisen from our beds and ran out of the house where we saw all people with lifted up hands begging Gods assistance.We then had continued ruin runing up the street as high up the rocky elevation we could go, while onthe other side we saw many houses swallowed up in the rushing flood afterwards, others thrown in heaps before the mighty torrent, the sand in the breaches rising like the waves of the sea lifting up all persons that stood upon it, and immediately dropping down into pits by being undermined by the force of the flood, and at the same instant the flood of water breaking in and rolling thosepoor souls over and over some catching hold of wreckage of all kinds and rafters of houses others were found later in the sand that appeared when the flood finally had slightly receded with their legs and armsout, we ourselves beholding this dismal sight..The small piece of rocky ground where upon sixteen houses including our own praised be to God and His Blessed Mother did not sink or give way before the dreadful flood.

As soon as the flood had receded every survivors was desserious to know if any part of his family were left alive.My own father and mother endeavored to go tward the home of our Grand Parents esecially upon the ruins of the houses there were floating upon the water, but could not, at length I got a canoe, and rowed up the "great sea side" of the flood tward our grand parents house where I saw several women and children floatingupon the wreck out to "sea" and as many of them as I could I took into the boat, and still rowed on till I myself came to where I thought my house had stood but could not find any trace of them nor the house either.But seeing all surviving people endeavoring to get to the higher portions of the city I went among them in the hopes I might hear of my grand parents or som part of my other relations, but could not.Next morning I went in from one surviving house oh the elevations to another till at length itpleased God that I found them.When brought to my

parents they asked them how they managed to escape.My grandmother told me and my parents that when they felt the house shake they ranout and called to all within to do the same.They were no sooner out but the sandliftrd her up and her husband grasping about her they both dropped into the earth together.They escaped from the flood by coming up to the higher spots before it came.

Even ow I hear the ruin of the submerged part of the town can be plainly visible in the calm weather, and at this presen day irregular masses of masonry can be dos discerned and incalcul able wealth had been lost in this ruin for the wharves were laden with the richest marchandise and the markets and stores had everything imaginable."

"Next to the flood sufferers"continued Jane"those along our own Angolinia coast are next.The Glandalinian"buccaneers have toasted and roasted the people when recalcitrant and hinding in their lone island coves in their vessels always spring out spider like on any unwary christian ship passing by.The Glandalinians operate with their private r privateers something fierce and they also near Vivian wickey have many of their blockade runners and the Blengiglomenean islands in the hands of the enemy are the very rendezvous of the blockade runners.The extent of the blockade can be appreciated from the fact that since the war began there has been already a record of 10,456 vessels entering besieged Vivian Wickey alone from other Glandelinian ports and as many cleared there bound for Glandelinian ports.Only fifty one of these that left Vivian Wickey are nowwhere recorded as ever having reach ed the shore.I believe they were captured or sunk by Abbiesannian submarines. These islands too are swarming with Glandelinian refugees the captian and crews of buccanneers and blockade runners and so forth and they play a reign of terror in or along our own coaste.Nevertheless according to the report of Rear Admiral Stanck so far up to now the Abbiesannian warships and submarines have destroyed not less than sixty million dollrars dollars worth of property belonging to the blockade runners.And they have averaged the capture of a loaded Glandelinian steamer or transport once a week or oftener.Therefore I do not see how blackade runner is of any profit to the enemy.But I believe this flood tops all the horrors in the war for this water like an ocean has rolled completely over much of the land and towns and forests have wat down before it like reeds.In twenty four hours all surviving cities ad towns have been like towns sacked and burned by anenemy and a large part of the wealth Calverinia has accumulated so many years before the war has disappeared into thin air.with the opening of the war wrecking along our shores has seemed to be profitable industry by the enemy..There were all other kinds of demonical branches of raiding ad and buccaneering business which the glandelinians will now be famous even though increased vigilance on the part of christian submarines, are now interfering with this horrible business to some extent and all lighthouses are also oprating in the same direction

CHAPTER THIRTY. FIVE.....".".".
SLIGHTLY SAD AND EXCITING ADVENTURES ON SHORE.
A COMBINATION OF THINGS WELL TO BE NOTED.

THE n ext morning when they had landed, on shore, and the wounded boys and girls, and soldiers had been placed comfortably within the huge army it was turning out to be one of the hottest days of August yet ever experienced for the sixteenth, and which no one had ever experienced yet.In the east a vein wreath of sm smoke overshadowed everything, and whit withened the dark grayness of the horizon sky, enough to show the presence of the forest fires yet, and there was no wind.It was so hot that many animals came from unseen places to drink at the edge of the flood or to swim part way in.No body would care for such weather except nowand then wye when they would have to do some duty, and the strange stillness was unbroken.Even the wind seemed to catch its breath near the headquarters chosen for the girlscout and boy officers and carry on with a hum that reached to the telegraph wires overhead.It hummed from the long hollow inside the fire place or above it.All the night before the distant eastern sky had appeared like red hot iron .Half an hour before breakfast was due in the army camp before breakfast itself at least came on two of general Aronburgs boyscouts themselves came riding up the dusty camp road on the outskirts of the camp with their boyscout lesson books slung over their shoulders.They were handsom sturdy handsome little fellows so well buttoned up in their uniform leggings, and uniforms that they looked as if they were out in the cold, and that it was not warm at all.Their cheeks were as red as winter apples from the heat, and their horses were almost breathless after their long gallop up hill tothw camp.

Racing down the company street alongside the floods edge they came to Gertrudes headquarters and entered in, just as from somewhere there camea hissing noise that shook the entire building.

"What kind of a cyclone or something is striking us now."growled one of Penrods officers, who was in the next room and who looked out the window. Then he frowned as the first noise was followed by a rasping sound outside somewhere like a bench being dragged across a floor as if it scraped the bare floor every inch of the way, yet with a jarring motion that made the windows of the house rattle, and even brought the two boys previously mentioned to the open door wondering what the noise was. Penrod himself rose to his feet and looked out of his own window.

"Those two little chaps of general Aronburgs boyscout regiments have appeared again"he said."They said last night"that you'd think the enemy owned the earth from the way they dash into towns and takepossession of things."

Penrod and all his followers though not yet acquainted liked these boys. Jane chuckled."Well Penrod "he said slowly"When you come to think of it their family always has owned a pretty fair slice of the earth and its good things and the enemy has taken all from them, and now these two boys have traveled nearly all over the country since they became scouts although the oldest can't be more than ten.It would be a wonder if they didn't have it out on the enemy some day.And they're foreigners too.I can see by their white color and their manners."

"Will they be with Constantinian Aronburgs army all the time?"asked Fred who too was one of Penods old timers.

"Yes, their father and mother have gone to Northern Abbiesannia to escape the war, and they had joined the scout force.Violet, and her sisters allowed them to, but those boys had to go through a lot of red tap with them before they succeeded."

"I imagine Violet, and her sisters has had their hands full."said another boy as a new sound was heard outside.

"Oh I don't know about that now."said Penrod."They are good boys to be sure and just boiling over with the desire fo adventure, and if you can find any better mannered littleforiegn gentlemen w when girls are round around I'd like to see them.They are like us Abbiesannians.They came down to the building this morning early when we were coming ashore and their politeness to Gertrude, Jane ad the others was something prety to see, I can tell you sir.The tallest is a boy by the name of Penrod too, Penrod James, and the other I do not yet know."

There was a moments pause in which the boys could be heard laughing about something in the next room, and talking about something in english.

"No "said Penrod again"It's not only us boys that will be keeping the boys hands full.. If any ever keeps the hands full its that little Miss Saunders, that little fairy sprite of ours who done the astonishing stunt of new rescuing Jack,when it is the ouse custom of boys to rescue girls---see my point.You can guess what's she is like from her nickname.They used to call

call her the "hot little gingersnap. She has always as she told me herself, lived at so some armypost at any section of the country, untill her father and mother moved to Calverine and escaped the flood at Abbi a Abbieann. He was th at is her father was a soldier in the army, and was wounded down there at gedernine, and has not yet been able to go back in the army since, and probably and luckily for her may never need to again. When he found he would have to stay in Calverine allwinter he sent for his wife to om from Abbieann last September and there was nothing to do with Jean and her elder sister but to send them to Empror vivians or Vivianias army.

"And she's the spunky little girl who is laid up in rescuing Jack" said Fred. "Think of that, a girl rescuing a boy under shell fire. When I think of a girl and boy or any of us shot at by enemy canon cannon I'd like to take a shot at every Glandelinian general I see. I suppose the boys are waiting for Jean as he they were to take her and Jack to the main army doctor. They'll have a long wait."

While this conversation was going on the two boys stretched themselves on a long bench close to the window. The hot room made them feel drowsy, after their violent o riding for such a long distance. Fanning the youngest one yawned several times, and finally lay down on the bench with his cap for a pillow. He was eight years old but curled up in that fashon with his long eye lashes resting on his red cheeks and one plump little han d tucked under his chin he looked much younger.

"W k wake me up Penrod, when its time for the wounded girl and boy to be brought in." he said to his brother. "and that little brave one known as Jean would never stop teasing me if she should find me asleep."

Penrod uhottoned his co t, and after much tugging pulled out a handsome little gold watch. "Oh there's a long time to wait." he exclaimed. "We need not have quit our scouting along the flood so early for they will not be here for nearly twenty five or fourty minutes. I believe I'll curl up here myself till then. I hope they won't forget the lt letters we sent for."

The rooom was very still for a few minutes. There was no sound except for the noise of the waters far off and the sighing of the wind in the trees near the window. Then some one turned the door knob so cautiously and slowly that it unlatched without a sound. It was the hot air rushing into the room as the door was p s pushed ajar that aroused the boys. After one surprised glance they sat up for the man who was slipping into the room as stealthily as a burglar was dressed asthe worst looking tramp they had ever seen. There was a long ugly red scar acrosss his face running from his cheek to the middle of his forehead and partly closing one eye. It was the scar that gave him such a queer sort of an expression, even without it he would have been a repulsive sight. His clothin g were dirty and ragged and he had a tu stubby black beard. Behind him came a boy and a little girl each no larger than Manning but with hard shrewd looks in their hungry little faces that made one feel they had lived a long time and learned more of hardships and went than was good for them to know. It was plain to see that the children and the man too were nearly starved, and suffering from the intensecheat. The bare toes of the whole three peeped through their ragged shoes, and they had no coats. A thin cotton shirt and a piece of an old gray horse blanket covered the boy. They too crept in noiselessly as if expecting to be ordered out at the first sound, and then the girl turned to coax in some animal that was no doubt doubt hesitating on the outside. The two boys looked on with interest, and sprang up excitedly as the animal finally shuffled in far enough for the girl to close the door b hind it. It was a great shaggy airdale like dog. The man looked uneasily around the room but seeing no one save the two boyscouts , ventured near the window. The boy and girl followed him and the dog shuffled along behind them both, limping painfully. Not a qord was said for a moment.

Though at first tempted to draw their pistols, the boys suddenly changed their mids minds and cast a curious glance at the three beggars or refugees or whqtever they were who had com in as noiselessly as if they had snowed down and the man was watching the boys with shrewd eyes/. He for some reason or other did not seem to be looking at them but at the end of his survey he could have described them most accurately. He had noticed every detail of their uniform from theirmilitary leather leggin gs to their shoulder straps. He glanced at the boys watchchain the one known as Penrod and the fine lesson books which the younger boy was swinging back and forth by a strap, and made up his mins, and very correctly too that these boys though in the uniform of Ancelinian boyscouts were foreign of birth. When he turned away to look at the children he rubbed his hands together with evident satisfaction for he had discovered more than that. He could surely see from their faces, that they were brave and trusting little souls who would believed any true story he might tell them if he appealed to their sympathies in the right way. He was considering how to begin, when the boy called Penrod broke the silence.....

"Are you refugees!"

The man nodded.

"Why are you here!" was the next question.

"Oh lots of reasos but suppose I'm not to tell." answered the man, in a low whining voice. "My children can drill like a soldier, and dance and ride hor ses as good as you two boys can."

"Oh yeah. I'll test them." and Penrod was going to keep good his word when his younger brother said "Keep them off our hor ses."

"Why.?"

"You knowour horses won't let strangers ride them. Theeskids will bekilled."

"Oh that's right."

He kept his sfity eyes turned constantly tward the door as if afraid some one might overhear him.

"I'd let the them ride som hor ses for you young gentle men" he finally said "but my horse has been killed by the Glandelinians for one thing, and another is if we went to showing off, we not being knownhere on the outskirts of the christian camp might be ordered to move on. This is the first time we have reached a shelter of any kind and we ain't in no hurry to leave it I can tell you. You may wonder why I look out the window so much, .Well I'll tell youf A thousand glandelinians are looking for me and they might even com here in disguise. I'm wanted."

"Is the boy and girl your children!" asked the younger boy going up to the litle girl.

"Yes. They are good children and as good natured and as gentle like a lamb. But they have not had anything to eat for nearly twenty fou hours."

"Nothing toeat. " echoed the elder boy. "The poor children." Going t a step closer he u put out his hand and stroked the girls hair as if she ha d been his own sister.

"Oh Penrod just feel how soft her hair is. And she has the prettiest little face and the blackest hair and beautiful black eyes. Poor little girl are you hungry! Never m n mind. I'll give you som of my provisions right now." and he handed her and the boy a part of his own rations, and the younger boy gave his to the man. The little girl putting her short plump arms around the boys neck huged the lad lovingly. A cunningpleased gleam came into the mans eyes. He saw that he had gained the elder bo ys sympathy, and he wanted the others also. That would mean safty for him and his little on es.

"Is your home near here or far away my little gentlemen!" he asked in a friendly tone.

"No we live in Pandora" Abbieannie" answered Penrod "but we are in the army just now."

"Then maybe you could know of someplace where we could stay to night, some place where to hide. Even a old tent to crawl into would keep us from being seen by disguised enemies. It is an awful hot morning too."

"Maybe the chief girlscout leader would let you stay in the waiting room of this building." suggested the younger lad Fred. "It's always good and cool in there. I'll ask the chief boyscout leader Scholefield Penrod."

"Oh no. No don't for heavens sake." exclaimed the man hastily, pulling his old hat farther over his forehead as if to hide the scar and looking uneasily around. "The Glandelinians may come more into the building than in some old tent. I would not have you do that for anything. I've had many dealings with Gladelinians and I know how they'd treat me, for though you may know the Vivian Girl Princesses, the price over their heads, is a penny compared to mine. I'm wanted everywhere by the enemy. I killed two great Glandelinian generals, and Glandelinia's prince, and am a dangerous spy to them. I'm dressed as a spy looking as I appear a tramp. If I could get out if of this disguise. I thought maybe there was a barnor a haystack or shed or something in your camp where we could lay up for repairs for a couple of days. General Aronburg sent me here, and here's the proof "passing the eve envelope to the boy. The children need a rest. The little girls foot is sore, and the boy is suffering from some sort of a lung fever judging from the way he always coughs." he nodded tward the boy whose face was drawn into a pucker in his effort to keep from coughing. Penrod and his brother looked at the littler boy steadily. He had known already how things were going on since the war began, how many were home less and hungry, and even cold in winter, and having seen lots of it since this disaster he knew how much it meantto be all that and more. This was the first time too in his ten short years that he had ever come close to real poverty, sorrow and suffering, and this war revealed it all to him. He had seen the swarms of homeless refugees, and had tossed them coppers and he could not help feeling sorry for them. A wave ofpity swept through Penruds generous little heart as he looked at the little boy and the girll too and the man watching him

shrewdly saw it."Of course"he whined" a little gentleman like you ought to know what it is to go from town to town and yet get nothing, because they are in ruins or in flames.You should too know what it is to have glandelinians trailing you all over the country with blood hounds, and even airships.You I believe now know that this is a hard hearted cruel nation you are helping to whip.Yet if you never had anything all yor life but others peoples scraps and leavings,and you hand't ay homes or friends or relations because the enemy wiped them out on you and was sick and starving besides, and a fugitive you'd think things was not very evenly divided.You would think it was not right that became of this war you would have all you could to keep heart and soul and body together. If you hap end to be my little boy here and he happend to be you in a splendid uniform I reckon you would feel it pretty tough to see such a big difference between you.It doesn't seem fair now does it?"

"No admitted the two boys hotly.He like all the others had taken a great dislike to all Glandelinian soldiers.He hated the nation, and its very name, and loathed its flag.He could not have told why but his child instinct armed hi with a sudden distrust as to what would be the future in the war. .He felt sure the disaster of flood and explosionat Abbiann was glandelinians doing but he could not prove it.The sorrow and affliction of the god people whom had sheltered him though a foreigner and his brother too made him feel the force of the whinning appeal, and the burden of an obligation to help all in trouble and Abbi a Abbiannia in trouble seemed laid upon his shoulders.

"There is no isolated barn or shed in this camp."the boy said shortly after a moments thought,"and Gertrude Angeline I'm sure couldn't afford to let you come into the house unless she had room for you.And Miss Aronburg is dreadfully particular"he added hastily, not wanting to be impolite to the supposed tramp.

"Oh I know aplace."Cried his brother Fred."There's an empty house down by a mill spring on the right of our location.No one has lived in it since the war so they say.There isn't any furniture in it but there is a fire place in one room, and in case it got cold it would be warmer than in a barn."

"That's just the trick."exclaimed Fred or Penrod.We cancurry a few mattresses filled with straw or hay from the hay pile for you three to sleep on.Dolores Mic-Hollester will come within another half an hour and I'll ask her to have you guarded sono Glandelinians can steal upon you unawares. I am sure she will do so because last night, when it was so hot she said she felt sory for anythig that would be out in the dangerous woods, even the poor old cedar trees with fires threatening the whole country with destruction.She said it is as if all of us were in hades, and she could understand how any one felt when she has gne through a lot herself.It's just like Dolores to feel that way about it, and she is so good to everybodythat she could not have any enemy except among the Glandelinians I suppose."

Something like a smile moved the "tramps stubby beard.

"So she is that kind, is she even a little girl.?Well if she could have a soft spot for anythinglik that she would not object to som harmless christian travelers salooping in an empty house a couple of nights till the storm blows over.Supposing you show us the place, sonny and we'll be moving on."

"Oh it wouldn't be right to not ask her first" e claimd Penrod."She'll be here in such a little while.It's against the military rules.And Gertrude who is suprior is away with Angeline Riches and others at her uncles headquarters and I don't know when she will be back."

The man looked uneasy.Presently he walked over to the window ad looked out side.

"The sun is not shining to day either."he said."I'd like to get my daughter foot fixed comfortable before it grows too late.She was shot.I'd like to do something pretty well.And it will take a long time to heat water to dress the wound.Is that old house far from here?"

"Not if we ride on horses and go in at the back of the place." said Penrod. "It's just across that meadow, and over a little hill.If we went round by the big front gate it would be a good deal longer.But to take you we would need an escort, for in case you'd get into trouble we would need help.The enemy don't respect us either you know."

The man shifted uneasily from one foot to another, ad complained of being hungry.He was growing very desprate.For more than one reason he did not want to be seen an by Glandelinians.The long red scar across his face had been described a thousand times in the newspapers and he did not care to be recognized just then.The boys could not have told how it came about but in a few minutes they were leading the way tward the cabin they spoke of.The man had persaudded them that it was not at all necessary to wait for Dolres permission, and that it was needless to trouble the girlscout general.Why should the good little

girls be bothered about a mater that boyscout officials were old and wise enough and well trained enough to decide..?So well had he aru argued, ad so tactfully had he persaudad them or flattered them, that when they took their way across the field it was with a feeling that they were doing their highest duty in getting these homeless wayfarers to the house as quickly as possible, on their own responsibility.

"We can get back in time to meet the girlscout if we hurry."said Penrod looking at his watch again."There's still thirty five minutes."

No one saw the little procession filed out of Gertrudes headquarters and across the meadow, even though it was growing somewhat lighter with the advance of day.Penrod went first proudly leading the little shy girl.The little toy came next besides Fredand the man shuffled along in the rear, looking around with suspicious glances whenever a twig snapped or a distant dog barked. They thenmounted horses and rode on.As the hot wind struck against the sick toy he unbottoned his coar coat and coughed hoarsely.His lips looked blue.

"You look like you had consumption."said Fred, wo who was unf uniformed felt the heat also.Here ride in front of me on my horse and I,ll take care of you."

A strange look passed over the man behind h them.

"Blessed if the little boyscout didn't do an act of charity."he muttered. "If this war hand't occured I would not be what I am now."

For a moment as they reached the top of the hill, the four children and the man were outlined against the gray sky like strange silhouettes. Then they passed over and disappeared in a thick clump of pine trees which hid the house from the eys of the surrounding world. In less time than it takes for anyone to imagine, a big fire was roaring in the cabin fire place for purpose of cooking water was steaming in a big kettle on the crane, and few matr mattresses lay in one big room ready as of a bed.Fred had made several trips to the kitchen, and came back each time with his hands full. The soldiers who occupied theold building never could find it intheir hearts to refuse anything to boyscouts.They were too much like their own sons left at home.The soldiers face had wrinkled into smiles when the homeless ones had been trought to the place.In the eys of all christian soldiers no one seemd quite so near perfection as boy and girlscouts..Therefore when the two boyscouts had came in with a pitiful tale of the poor man who was starving at the very entrance of the christian lines, they had given him and the two xchildren more than even asked for, and almost more than he could cary.The two children and their father were so hungry and their two little hosts so interested in watching them eat, that they forgot all about going back to meet the girlscout. They did not even hear the galloping of her horse when it passed the house. As Dolores dismounted from her horse she looked around in vain for the two strange boyscouts who had promised to meet her.Behind her was her sister and son of the other girlscouts,(not officers though), and a new one too a little girl about nine years old as unlike all the others as possible and who was one of those whom Gertrude had left behind in Aronburgs army, although it was her ambitionto be exactly like all other girlscouts.Mildred too was there and yet she too had still kept all her lively girlish ways and a love of fun that made her charming to everybody, young and old, but hated by the enemy of course.Mildred longed to hear som good news from the front, and especially of what had transpired yet near Evangeline St Claire but no news came.Mildred always had a graceful easy manner about her, and as all might know she had long golden bobbed hair, and her complexion like a gypsy though extremly pretty.She had hard brown little fists sharp black eyes that seemed always to see everything at once and a tongue that was always getting her into trouble-----with the enemy. As for the ease of manner she was a record breaker at it.Jane her companion also was with them.She walked up to the headquarters door first, opened it, after speaking to the guard and waited till all had entered before she went in.Her big uniform hat plume that was tipped accidentally over one hear because of her hard riding.

"Well Mildred what do you suppose has became of the two boys?" asked Dolores."They promised to meet us."

"Maybe they were called away."said Jane.

"I heard them in here about half an hour ago Miss Dolores"said Penrod who had come in."I suppose some sudden duty called them off.Beter leave your things here hand't you before you go.I'll watch them.It's mighty hot outside this morning."

"Oh thank you Penrod"she answered."I'll send Jack Teller down after them immediately.The doctor looked over Jean and Jack, and said they ought to be walking around in a week.Jeans shoulder is considerably better, but Jacks leg is bad."Then"Now Mildred we will have to hasten to general Aronburg. Penrod if the boys come, sent them there immediately after you."

They had been in the house some time before the boys remembered their promise to meet the girlscouts at the girlscout headquarters.When they saw how late it was they started away on their horses at full gallop.

"I am fairly aching to tell Dolores about those reformees."panted Fred as they reached the side door."I am now so sory sory that we had to prim promise the man not to dy say anything about them bein g on the place just then before he sees us again to morrow or to night.I wonder why he asked us that!"

."I don't know "answeredPenrod."He seemed to have a very good reason , and he talked about it so that it didn't seem right not to promise a thing like that.And he seemed scared stiff about som thing."

"I wish we hand't though."said Fred again.

"Gu nut its done now." persisted Penrod."We are bound not to tell and you can't getout of it for he made us give him our word and cross our hearts to die on the han our of two good boyscouts, and that settles it you know."

They were two very dirty boys who clattered up the back stairs and raced to their room to dress for breakfast.Their uniforms were covered with haysead and straw, and their hands and faces were black with soot from the old cabin chimney.They had both helped to build the fire.Dolores came running out from her room when she heard the boys voices.

"Why didn't you meet us down below"she began, but stopped as she saw their dirty faces."Where on earth have you chimney sweeps been!"she cried.

"Oh about and about."answered Penrod, teasingly."Don't you wish you knew!"

Dolores shrugged her shoulders as if she had not the slightest ine interest in the matter, and held out two packages.

"Here are the maps you sent for.You ought to just see the pile that Mildred Maxwell brought.W have the best secret about to morrow and our plans that ever was."

"So have we "began Fred but Penrod clapped a sooty han d over hismouth and pulled him tward the door of their room."Come on he said.We have barely time to clean up for breakfast.Don't you know enough to keep still you little magpie."the exclaimed as the door banged behind him."The on ly way to keepa secret is not to act lik you havaone."

Dolores walked slowly back to her room and paused in the doorway wondering what she could do to amuse herself till breakfast time.It was a queer room for a girlscout decorated with Angelinian flags, and clandelinian trophies captured and everything that could remind her of the military life she loved at the far away army post under emperor vivienThere were photographs framed in brass burr buttons on her dressing table and poo pictured pictures of uniformd officers and gen rals and Sacred Heart pictures all over the walls.A canteen and an army cump or cap with a bullet hole through the drown hung over her desk, and a battered bugle that had sounded many a triumphant charge swung from the corner of her mirrow mirror.

Each souvenir had a history and had been given her at parting by some s e special soldier friend.Though every one had made a pet of poor Dolores they did not spoil her, and often she had dashed from one campto another on her pony like a wild C Comanche Indian, and she had seldom ever played with any doll.There was a suit in her wardrobe, short uniform skirt, jacke leggings, and moccasins all made and beaded by her parents.It was the gift of hermother. when D olores was younger she had not desired to become a girlscout or join any army.Her mother too had hesitated some time but her father was stern on the subject, and he knew it was safer for her than if she had stayed home.

"We are in great enough danger now."She had said to Dolores that two years before parting."The enemy is murdering children so fiercely that I am afraid to let you outside even a minute.If I had known you would have had to go to the army I certainly should not have had to cu have your hair cut so short and you should have worn your sun bonnets all summer."Then to the womens surprise her little daughter had thrown herself into her arms sobbing!

"Oh mamma I don't want to go back to the moboliztion d camps.If I must go take me to the army under the great fighting generals.Please do or else let me stay here at the armypost.Everybody will take care of me here.I will just die if you'll leave me in an old moboliztion camp, where there is no excitement, and where soldiers are only sent to be moboliz ed for the army."

"Why darling"she had said soothingly as she wiped her tears away and rocked her back and forth in her arms"I thought you had always wanted to sees great big moboliztion camp, and the great armyplaces you have heard so much about.There is so much peril in being in the fighting armies, and the battles are so dreadful.It's better if you would have gone home altogether Dolores and there are all the toys in the nusery that we had when we were children,and the grape vine swining in the orchard, and the mill spring where we fished and the popular wood where we had such delightful pin nicnics.I thought it would be so nice for you to do all the same things that made me so happy when I was

a little girl.Wouldn't my little girl like that.?"

"Oh yes mama I suppose"Sobbed Dolores"But my sister is with Emperor Vivian, and too the Glandelinians might get me at home too"she wailed."I don't want to always have to fear at night as at home that a soldier of the for will steal into my room to kill me in my sleep.I'd rather stay where it is best for me and papa said so.No Mamma please let me go to the army.If I'm sent to a moboliztion camp, I'll run away."

It had been two years and five mon ths now since Dolores had left her mother and father.At first after her girlscout schooling lessons durin g the day she had locked herself in her room nearly every day and with her fac buried in her uniform had cried over what she had read and heard the Glandelin lans do.She had been sick at heart though she then had the gay m ilitary life of the army. Now of all girlscouts she was the most dreaded by the enemy.She enjoyed the army life hugeagly and she liked the great gray orpurple tents and she liked the thrilling adventures, the comfort and eneumnce of the big stately rooms of the immense tents, and when in a generals headquarters she had her own mothers pride in the old family portraits and the beautiful carved furniture. Sometimes some boy scout had seemed so queer and funny to her that she found them a great source of amusement, and all her boy and girlscouts planned so manypleasant and thrilling occupations outside of girls cout school hours that she scarcely had time to get lonesome.But though she mentioned it to no one, since the combination of flood and fire horrors she had e shut in feeling like a wild bird in a cage, a feeling like little Heidi did when she was in seemans house instead of on the mountain meadow with Goat Peter and h her uncle, and sometimes the longing to even try and burst through these obstacles made her fret and hate bitterly the thousand little proprieties she had to undergo.Sometimes when she went tipping over the polished floors of the long drawning room in a generals headquarters and caught sight of herself in one of the big mirrors she felt she was not herself at all, but some one in s story.The Dolores in the looking glass seemed so very, very like Heidi. more than once after these meetings with herself in the mirror mirror she had dashed upstairs locked her door, and dressed herself in her regular suit. But that was mostly before she came into adventures with all the well known girlscout friends.General Vivian had felt sorry for the lonely child who had never been se e separated from her mother and father before, and Violet and her sisters had devoted their time to her as much as possible telling her thrilling stories, and of their own adventures and entering into her plays and pleasures.

Since she has been in the army and got the rank as girlscout captian general, and since being with so many good boy ad girls couts of all sh ages and rank and with her sister too,and Gertrude Dolores had not had a single homesick moment.While she was at the girlscout military school as girlscout teacher in the primary department all others were reciting their lessons to her.Yet they were all free about the same hour and on times off played out of doors till taps. To day or this morning Dolores had so many experiences to tell these two boys tha that the boys seemed unusually long inputting ready.And she was so impatient for them to hear her news, that she could not settle down to anything but walked restlessly around the room wishing and saying they would hury.

"Oh I haven't sorted my pa maps."she exclaimed presently sickin gup a fancy box which she had tossed on the bed when she first came in .I'll t k take them down to the library.I wished Gertrude and the others were here."

There was no one in the room when she peeped in.It looked so bright and cosy with the great windows and the rose colored lights falling from its softly shaded lamps that she forgot the heat of the morning outside.Sitting down on a pile of cushions at the end of the hearth rug, she began sorting her purchases, and then looked over her presents which she intended to sent to her loved ones, and her friends.

"The prettiest of these all must go to poor papa"she said or thought to herself"Because he's been so seriously wounded away down there in Cedarnine and this one a picture which has a little girl on it is a purple dress shall b for my dear sweet mamma cause it will make her think of me.And I'll sent a letter to them both by telegraph.""

For a moment moment a mist seemed to blur the gray purple dresses of the little girl in the picture as Dolores looked at her, thinking of her far away mother.She drew her hand hastily across her eyes and went on/,"This one is for general Vivian out at Evangeline St Claire, and the biggest one with the doves for the Emperor .Dear me.I wish I could sendon e to every christian officer and soldier out there, and even to Violet and her sisters, but there is no news of their return yet nor of Evans.They were all so good

The pile of loose paper pictures of Our Blessed Lord and His Mother slipped from her lap down to the rug as she clasped her hands around her knees and looked out the window.She wished she could be back again at general Vivians army long enough to live the same old days.How she loved the bugle calls and the wild thrill the bands gave her when it struck up a burst of martial music and the troops went dashing by.Here she heard it too and that comforted her also.She did not even here miss the drills and the dress parades but how she missed the games she used to play with the Vivian Girl Princesses on the long summer evenings and in the winter cold days.Something more than a mist was gathering in her eyes now.Two big tears were almost ready to fall when the door opened and to her joy Angeline Richee and Gertrude came in. In dolores eyes both Gertrude and Richee were the most beautiful girls any one had outside the Vivian Girls as friends and companions.Gertrude was equally as tall as Angeline, they had the same golden hair, almost formed in the same fashion and both had deep blue eyes, unlike the black of the Abbiennians.

"I wouldn't be as stately and dignified as they are if I practised for a thousand years."thought Dolores scrambling up from the pile of cushions to roll a big chair nearer the open window.As she did so her heel caught insomething under the rug and she fell back in an awkward little heap.

Dolores then strove to pick it up but whatever she had tripped on disappeared and she could not find it anywhere.While she was picking up her pictures plans and maps the two boyscouts came in.In dead if two of the cavalier ancestors had stepped down from the portrait frames just then, they could not have come into the room in a more charming manner than Penrod and his brother Fred.Their faces were shining their uniforms as spotless, and they came up as was the custom to kiss the cheeks of the girlscouts with an old time courtliness that delighted them.

"I am sure indeed there are no more perfect gentlemen in all the country than all the boyscouts."Gertrude said fondly, with an approving pat of Freds hand as she held to him for a moment. Dolores who had seen them half an hour before tousled and and dirty smiled ad and said"I know they had been out scouting Gertrude."

The boys darted a quick glance in her direction but she was bending over the maps with a very serious face which never changed its expression till dignified Mildred Maxwell came in, and the boys began their apologies for not meeting her and the others at the door outside.However their only excuse was that they had forgotten all about it.However Dolores spelled on her fingers"Why don't you tell us what made your faces so black!" Freds only answer was a shaking of the head, and then he ran to hold the door open for the girlscout leaders to pass out to the mess hall for breakfast, with all the grace of a young Chesterfield. When the breakfast was over and they were back in the library, Gertrude opened a box of envelopes, and began addressing them.As she tookup her pen she said, merrily;

"Now tell your secret you had for me will you Dolores."!

"I was going going to make you guess for about three hours"said Dolores"But it is so surprising I can't wait that long to tell you.We are going to celebrate our safe return to the christian lines since our long adventure down the flood and we are going to do it to morrow night in general Aronburgs Headquarters. The general has plannned it already, and has secured the things for it while we were unloading our wounded off the raft.Everything on the table is to be cut out in the shape of hearts the bread and butter and sandwitches and cheese, and if we can secure any the ice cream will also be moulded ino hearts and the two big frosted cakes will be hearts, one red and one white with candy arrows sticking in them.Then there we will be all kinds of peppermint candy and other hearts with loving mottos printed on them, and lace paper napkins with verses on them so that the table itself will lok look likeso lovely big vanie valentio valentine though of course it is not that day this being a August.But that is all we could secure for the celebration.We w are going to have lovely games too.One will be parlor archery with a red hart in the middle of the target, and two prizes one for the boyscouts and one for the girlscouts."

"Who are invited!"asked Penod, as Dolores stopped for breath.

"All the girl and boyscouts who can come.There will be only of course the girl and boyscouts who were with us on the expdition with the raft.There is the list on the table."

Fred reached for it, and began slowly reading out the names."Who is this!" he asked reading the name that was heading the list."Jean Turner.I ever heard of her.Is she a girlscout too!"

"No she's a rescued child scout from the enemy."laughed Dolores"Little Jean Turner----don't you know!She's general Aronburgs girl aide-decamp.You h ve You have surely seen her with her father riding on the horse this morning."

"Was he the man who had the one arm!"asked Penod.!

"Yes the other was shot off in the battle of Fort Dominant.Well when Jean first entered the army, she had a temper against the Glandelinians, and always wears such a dear little Napoleon hat, that everybody in the army calls her"The little Angelinian Colonel."

"How old is she now!"asked Penrod."

"About Freds age, isn't she Gertrude!" asked Dolores.

"Yes, was the answer."she is nearly nine I believe."

"I love to hear her talk."said Dolores"She spunks her words in such a quick professor like way."

"I thought all you Abbiennians do that."said Penrod"And anyway it sounds lots better than the way those darn Glandelinians talk, leaving out all their r's d's and Ps."

"You two boys don't talk like we do."said Dolores."You are all mixed up in every way.Being foriegners you have found it hard to master our language for som things you say in broken english and it doesn't sound a bit like the Abbiennian language."

"Oh well that is because we have traveled about so much don't you understand." drawled Penrod"and we have been in so many different parts of the country, and had an Abbiennian tutor, and all that sort of thing, and had so many narrow escapes with the enemy we had no time to learn it properly.We couldn't help it."

"Yes I know"she said."I know perfectly well.If I didn't it would not be because you haven't told me every place you got.Who did you say chanced you once all the way to Calverine, and how many time was it the Glandelinian cavarly almost got you.I think you should be more careful.I know all you went through, even the Vivian Girl Princesses have told me.I remember when they told me you swiped a pair of gloves belonging to John Manley and sent them back to him filled with mud and clay.Yes Yes I have heard all about it ."

Gertrude listened to the conversation but said nothing.She knew the good boys were a little inclined to boast, and she thought Dolores way of talking might have a good effect.Then she herself said;

"Boys did you ever hear about the time this little Jean threw a hanful of mud on Manleys coat while hiding behind a tree!There's no end to her pranks against the enemy.Get Angeline Richee to tell you."

"Oh yes please miss Richee"hanged Fred with an arm round her neck in his friendly way.

"Tell about your adventures with the enemy in the past; too"said Dolores."Here Penrod, and you too Fred there is room on this time for you."

"Now can we tell Dolores about the man and his two children!"was Freds whispered remark to his brother.

"Not till we have seen the man again."answered Penrod."You know we promised him that."

Then lets go down to night"exclaimed Fred ."Why not go now and see how he is!"

"A little while later Colonel Saunders saw them ride past the window making sign to the girls that they would be back soon.

"Aide-de-camp"he called out to his retainer" Aide-de-camp"why are those two foriegn boyscouts a second time racing down to that old house for.It appears as if they have something up their sleeve."

The aide-decamp who had just been coaxed by the two boys into filling a basket with a generous supply of cold victuals pretended ot to hear hear until the colonel repeated his question.Then the aide-decamp stopped cleaning the colonels horse long enough to answer"It's a mystery to me sir."The aide-decamp well enough did ot know what they had gone for now.Still he did not dare to tell the colonel even if he did kno . The food, the coolness of the place and the early mornings rest had so restored the mas childrenso that they were able more so to show their appreciation for their kindness, although the little girl limped badly.

"Are not the little boy and girl dandies!"cried Fred."I al sure wish she was my sister and he my brother.They seem nicer than our own kind of kids at home, except our sisters.Yet something is always happening to children here because of the enemy, and these Glandelinians are such a nuisance, who once stole our white rabbits, and killed our guinea pigs."

"Did we not have lots of things stolen by Glandelinians when we came to think of it!" exclaimed Penrod."Pet squirrels white mice and the racoon that our Uncle Ben brought us, and even the parrot from Mexico Mexico."!

"Yes, and the gold fish, and the little baby alligator which the enemy threw into a fire."added Fred."Oh I sure hate them soldiers in gray. As soon as papa returns to the armyand come to us I'm going to ask him to buy us some something new maybe a bear."

"I'm afraid my little boy is nearly done for."said the man pointing to the boy who lay curled up in the hay, coughing at nearly every breath."We ought to stay here another few days if you young gentleman do not object."

"No we do not object."cried Fred."Then we can bring the girlscouts down and have some of them take care of your little boy."

"Yes,"answered the man ,"and Iall give you some good information if you will only kindly wait till to morrow.Give us one more day tovrest up and get in a little better trim.My poor daughters foot is still too lame for her to walk properly and you are too kindhearted, I am sure sure to want to see her suffer in order to give youpleasure."

"Of course, yes indeed"answered both the boys, agreeing so quickly to all the mans specifications that before they left the house, they had renewed their promise to keep silence untill he gave the word.The man was a shrewd christian spy and knew well how to make these little souls serve his goodpurpose to enable him to get even with the foe, for shooting both his girl and boy.The boy was shot in the lung and his father had hopes of saving the lad himself, having been a professional doctor in his day before the war.Gertrude Angeline was so busy with preparations for the celebration, that she had no time those few hours to notice what the boys were doing.When they came back, she sent them on several errands, but the rest of the morning hours they divided between the house, and the girlscouts.every telegraph t report brough something new to each of them and then the boys were surprised by recieving a militdry telegram from their father.

"I knew he'd send us a telegram"cried Fred, tearing upon the envelope."I'll bet papa is sending good news.Yes here it is.Papa is such a tease about his wounds.Isn't his telegram a stunner.And whoopie.Here's a ten dollar bill in the telegram.How did he sent it to us despite this flood."

"So there is also in mine."said his brother."Mamma says in the telegram we are to buy anything we want.They couldn't d find anything in Calverine that they thought we would like."

"I don't know what to get with mine."said Fred folding his moneypiece together."Seems to me I have everything I want except a camera camera and I couldn't buy or use one in the army.It isn't allowed."

They were hald half way home when a happy thought came to Penrod."Fred "he cried excitedly."If you would put your money with mine that would make fourty three dollars, and maybe it would be enough, to pay a doctor to attend to the boy and girl.The Military doctors are toobusy and too far from here to go and ask any of the , and a private doctor could keep mum if asked to."

"Let's do it, but ask the man first."exclaimed Fred turning a handspring to show his delight."Come on we'll ask the man now."

But the man shook his head, when they dashed into the cabin and told their purpose.

"No sonny that ain't a tenth of what a doctor would charge in these hard times."he said."But I'm a professional doctor myself, and I have raised my children from the time they both were tiny babes.I've taught them and fed them, took care of them when sick, and looked to them for l oving company. I know my childrens ailments, and if I cannot do much for my boy, no doctor outside or in the army can.He's wounded in the lon lung.The Glandelinians shot both my children as we fled.Couldn't you send one of your girlscout friends to stay here with them?"

"It was Penrods turn to shake his head.

He turned away too disappointed to trust himself to answer any other way.The tears sprang to wreds eyes.He had set his heart on having a doctor look at the mans children.

"Never mind brother"said Penod moving tward the door."Dolores will do something for them when she come home again and findsout how bad they are."

"Oh don't be in such a hurry young gentlemen--said the man when he saw that they were really going."I didn't say that I wouldn't care to have a doctor if you could get one for that much, as he has the meddicin as with him I haven't got.You've been so kind to me that I ought to be willing to make any sacrifice to you and for you.I happened to need mec medicines for my children especially the boy very particularly just now, and I've a mind to have you get one but on only your own terms."He paused a moment looking thoughtfully at a crack in the floor as he stood by the fire withhis hands in his pockets."Yes he"he said at last"You can try and get a doctor for fourty three dollars if you'll make him keep mum about us being here in the christian lines.You can leave the rest in the hands of the christians.But I'm afraid the little boy is going to die."

"No, no"cried Fred, throwing his arms around the childs neck."He is not going to die, and we must make the doctor say so too."

After some thought the man said he would so and the boys after some time succeeded in getting a doctor who was willing to do it for nothing.In the mean time Penrod himself, the boyscout captian general coming up from the barn in the rear of Gertrudes headquarters thought he saw several p rsons stealing along by a clump of pines near the shed.

"Halt who goes there"he challenge challenged.There was no answer and after peering intently through the orning smoky dusk for a moment Penrodconcluded that he must have been mistaken, but he called some of the boys, and investigated but found no one.At this time the boys were returning from the house by the hill spring, and they had one of their own girlscout friends with them.

"The boy is warm ad comfortable for to day."whispered Penrod to his brother Fred."To morrow the man said we could tell at least our own girl friends but not everybody.They."

The boys then entered a small barn by the rear of Gertrudes house and while they were rummaging in the hay for something, they were startled by a rustling behind them.They looked into each others frightened faces, drew their pistols and glanced around the dark barn in alarm. Then a girls voice betrayed the mans little girl.She had followed them.

"Sh"she said, in a warding whisper."I'm afraid the soldiers will findout that I'm here.Don't you leave any of your doors unlocked to night, and tell your scout frieds so if you ever expect to live to see another day.Not only is it true what he told you why we came to you for help, but glandelinians in disguise though they know not where we are know you sheilded us, and they'll try to get you.My brother was shot in the lung by a glandelinian who fired it us inambush, and though father told you nothing too he himself is shot and very ill though he holds himself up as if he is all right.He never had anytrouble with the Glandelinians until two nights ago, and he finally gave in to you about the doctor because he's too sick to do anything for the boy and me.I saw the Glandelinians plotting and heard them talking and I just had to com and tell cause you have been so good to me and my little brother. I'll never fogst what you have done for us if I live to be a hundred.Now can't say anything or the Glandelinians will see me and kill me. "

"Is your father badly hurt?"---began Fred, but the little girl alarmed by some sudden noise, sprang to the door as fast as her wounded foot would allow, and disappeared in the smoke haze. The boys looked at each other with surprise and indignation in their faces.There was a hurried consultation in the haymow.The boys decided to have a trap laid for any strange men who would succeed in slipping past the guards and getting into the house .A few moments later the boys were giving their orders to a large number of soldiers whom they knew well and could trust.

"They want to set the house onfire and killus all here."said Penrod. "Do not hesitate.Shoot to kill."

All the time they were dressing for the party they were trying to decide where any enemies could best enter the place.What the little girl had told them about the mans own peril, and the plot of the enemy did not relieve them from their promise though they had set soldiers in hiding in great numbers near the mans hiding place with the word"don't let any men wearing any uniform go in there.They were amazed that Glan delinian soldiers could ever be so mean and longed to tell Dolores about it, still one of the conditions on which they had brought the doctor to the man was that for the sake of the whole army they were to keep "mum2"and they stuck strictly to that promise.

By the time they were dressed, they had decided to put guards in every room ifpossible.

"No one will ever think of stealing their way in here."said Penod"and it will be plenty warm for any Glandelinians who would make the attempt.."

As he spoke he smiled.

"Won't the girls be surprised!"answered Fred."Will tell her the whole thing as soon as possible.

There was no time for this however as the first girlscout guests arrived while the boys were still giving soldiers orders as how to have the house guarded.

"Oh boys"Called Mildred from the hall downstairs."See what an enormous cake Gertrude had already made."

Looking over the banisters, the boys observed that a table had been drawn into the middle of the wide reception r hall and on it sat the largest cake that they had ever seen.It was in a bright n new tin pan and its daintly browned crust would have made them hungry even if they did not have sharp appetites immediately after breakfast.

"What a queer place to serve cake."said Penrod, in a disapproving undertone to his brother."Why don't they have it in the dining room?It looks

It looks mighty good but some how it doesn't seem proper to have it stuck out here in the hall!Mamma would never do such a thing at home."

"But we are not at home" said Fred who had run on ahead to look."But Mildred must have unconsciously fooled us for its made of on paper and its only painted to look like cake.But isn't it a splendid imitation.!"

Mildred was indeed pleased to have caught them so cleverly and she showed them the ends of fifty four pieces of narrow ribbon peeping from under the dec delicately brown top crust."She said;

"The white ones are for the girlscouts, and the red ones for the boyscouts." she explained."There is a beautiful present on the end of each one and those on the red ribbons match the ones on the white. We will all pull at once and the ones who have the presents alike will go out to mass together."

The guests came promptly.They had been invited for nine oclock, and dinner was to be served at eleven.The last to arive was the little Jean girlscout called the Armys Little Colonel.She came with her friend another little girl her own size.The child was very well uniformed.All the boyscouts had been curious to see her indeed, ever since they had heard so many tales of her mischievious praks upon the enemy.A few minutes later when she appeared there was a buzz of great admiration.It was not exactly so much for the childs soft light golden hair, the star like beauty of her big dark eyes or the delica e colour in her cheeks that made them as pink as a wild rose as it was for the uniform she wore.It was of a dainty purple tulle thick and shiny like silk and there was a coronet of glittering rhinestones on her long fair hair.

"The queen of the party"announced Gertrude Angeline, leading h r her forward. "And now she shall open the big celebration paper cake;and see if it is as good as her Majesty's."

A big music box of some kind in the hall began playing one of its liveliest marches, the children gathered around the big cake and fifty four little hands reached out to grasp the floating ends of ribbon.

"Pull"cried the queen of the celebration.

The paper crust then flew off, and fifty four yards of ribbon each with a small pretty box attatched flew brightly through the air for an instant.

"Now match them."cried her Majest again opening her own to read what was in it, and finding a verse and the box full of cand candy.There was indeed much laughing and peeping over shoulders and tangling of white and scarlet ribbons while the gay music box played on. In the midst of it Dolores beckoned to the little girlscout called the "Colonel"

"Come up stairs with me for a minute Jean"she whispered"and help me look for something I brought ashore from the raft.Gertrude has forgotten where she put the small rifles and the cartridges that we are to use in the shooting contest after dinner.There is the prettiest prize for the one who hits the red hea heart in the center of the target."

"Oh do you suppose you can hit it!"asked the girl as she and Dolores slipped their arms round around each other, and went skipping up the stairs.

"Yes indeed"answered Dolores."I used to pra practise so much with my pistol and small rifles out at Fort Donohue that I could hit centre every time.I'm not going to join in the shooting though, and neither is Mildred; Gertrude or others as it wouldn't be fair.But afterward when the contest is over we'll show all some of our marksmanship."

When they reached the top of the stairs Dolores went into her room to light a wax taper in one of the silver candle sticks on her dressing table.

"I think that Gertrude must have led left those rifles and cartridges in the big room"she said, leading the way down the cross hall which went to the south wing."She made the pie therebthis early morning, and all the other things were there. This building is not much used either I fany fancy as we have not yet explored all the rooms."

The taper that Dolores carried was the only light in that part of the house as it was growing dark outside from so much smoke in the sky.When she reached the door of the big room she turned to Jean.

"Hold the candle for me please"she said,"While I look in the closet.

Indeed this little Jean made a very pretty picture as she stood in the doorway with the tall silver candle stick held high in both hands.Her hair sh n shone like gold in the candle light and her glitterin g crown flashed as if a circle of fairy fire flies had been caught in its soft meshes.Her dark eyes peered anxiously around around the big shadowy room mlighted only by her flickering taper. Downstairs Penrod and his brother were having an argument about her It began by Penrod taking his brother aside and offering to t rade candy boxes with him.

"Ad why indeed"asked his brother Fred with some suspicion.

"B-cause yours matt matches yours and went to escort her to dinner" admitted Penrod."Next to Gertrude and An geline Richm she is the prettiest girl

scout here.

"But I do not intend to make any trades."answered Fred."I want to take her to the mess hall myself."

"I'll give you the possession of any easy making military codes in my envelopes if you will."

"I do not want any such plans."a declared Fred almost stoutly."I'd rather have the little girlscout for my partner."

"But I think you should trade." coaxed Malco Penrod."It's mean to also when I'm the oldest.I'll give you that big map which you have been wanting so long if you will."

But Fred only shook his head.

"Just then a most terrific scream sounded in the upper hall followed by another and then the sound of shots half a dozen times that made every one down stairs turn pale with fright.Two voices were uttering piercing shrieks one after another so loud and frantic, and followed by the sounds of shots that even the guards in the back room came running with pistols drawn.Gertrude Angeline thinking of the candle she had told Dolores to light and remembering the thin uniform she wore instantly thought she must have set herself afire. She ran into the very hall herself, so frightened that she was trembling from head to foot.Before she could reach the staircase, Little Jean came flying down the staircase white as a little ghost, and her eyes wide with terror. Throwing herself into Gertrudes outstretched arms, she began to sob out her story between great trembling gasps.

"Oh there were thirteen old awful, awful Glandelinians in that big room and they nearly got us.They came through the windows and some of the made after us, but Dolores shot them down at least some of them and if I hand't slammed the door just in time after she got out they would have killed us.I'm sure they would.Oo-oo-oo.They were awful and wore dreadful masks or hoods with half moons on thevtop."

"Why Jean"exclaimed Gertrude distressed to see her so terrified"It must have been only the shadows of our men you saw.It isn'tpossible for the Glandelinians to get wayup there you know without coming inside the house. There is Dolores."

"She is up here Miss Aronburg."Called one of the soldiers.She"she's rescued two little boys up here whom the glandelinians had brought with them so she says, and there's a girl too who is so scared she is going to faint I'm afraid.It was they who did the screaming.There is certainly some one still in the room.I can hear them moving moving around now."

All the boyscouts who had come into sight on hearing the screaming and the shots went dashing up the stairs, led by Schofield Penrod and the German boy George, and the whole party of girls followed them at a respectful disa distance as ordered by Penrod, but with all their own pistols drawn. When Penrod opened the door with a bang the room looked very big and shadow y and six glandelinians were just making for the windows, while three lay on the floor dead, and one was moaning and groaning.The figures of the men in such such dreadful looking hoods were certainly enough to frighten any one coming upon them unexpected unexpectedly in the dark, and when Gertrude saw them disappear out of the window before Penrod could open fire she drew Jeans trembling hand into hers ith a sympathetic clasp.Before she could ask any questions the boys began an excited explanation.It was some time before they could make their story understood. Gertrude was horrified, and insisted on sending news to the general at once.

"The idea of such dangerous Glandelinians as those Gargoylian Kurds breaking into the house of girls and boys just to get a loan and his two children who are hidden in the camp."she exclaimed"and above all trying to murder children whom they brought in here on purpose to do away with unseen. We might have all also been murdered in our sleep."

"But Miss Aronburg"begged Penrod, the other boy"I can't understand this. I can't reason why or how they got in that way.Let's go and look things over and see how they got up and with the two eight year old girls and the boy.It was a good thing they screamed or they would have been slaughtered in that room.Were you frightened Dolores."

"A little"she answered."But I fired as soon as I saw them, and so did Jean though she was more frightened.But we didn't scream.It was those whom I rescued."

There was a scattering to all portions of the house hos house but no evidence as to how the Glandelinians got up to the room could be found.Jean forgot her fear a little afterwards.Gertrude was determined to send some soldiers down to the house at once to investigate. She had a horror the Glandelinians

w ould get the man and his children next.But the boys begged her to wait till the next orbi morning saying that the Glandelinians couldn't find the place and besides it and the ground was well guarded by hidden soldiers who would fire upon any one even seen sneaking tword the house.

"His little girl warned us that we were in peril for shelding him."said Fred.He was so earnest that the tears stood in his big beautiful eyes.

"This is spoilin g the party celebration."whispered Angeline nichee,"and dinner is waiting.I'll be responsible for any harm that may be don e if you will let the boys have their way this once.I'll order the house strictly guarded, and a search made for the remainder of those men.The dead ones can lay up there till the party is over, then I'll send men to take them out and search their clothing to see who and what they were."

There seemed no other way to settle it just then and so six guards were placed inside andoutside the town.Fred took Jean down to dinner and Gertrude heard him sympthysing with her for the fright she had recieved, and he gave her his opinion of Glandelinians.The little girl listened smilingly but her colour did not come back for the whole day.It was when Fred came up with the prize he had won, a tiny silver arrow and pinned it in the knot of red ribbon on her shoulder.

"Will you keep it to remember me by?" he asked bashfully.

"I will sure of course"she answered with a smile that showed all her roguish dimples.I "I will keep it forever and ever to remember how near I came to being killed by the enemy, and how you and Penrod the boyscout leader helped me."

"It seems too bad for such a beautiful party to come to an end"said one of the girlscouts when the last merry game was played, the last story told and the girlscouts who promisehed gave an exhibition of their crackshot work with their pistols, and rifles."But there is one comfort"she added, gathering all her boxes together"There n ever is any need to the end to remember it by. I've had such a good time Miss Aronburg."

It was late in the afternoon when the last on horseback rode down the company street bearing away the last smiling little guest, that the dead men were removed from the room, and a double guard placed inside and outside the house.It was not long untill the last light was put out in every room and a deep stillness settled over the entire house.Penrod was alone in a tent, well guarded and he sat bowed over his big geographhy.

Those who knew about Pen rods habits some times said that Penrod seldom slept, for no m atter what hout of the night the guards passed his tent a light was always burning.He was indeed one of the busiest of all boyscouts in the christian army but he never was always by himself as som of the soldiers thought and said.He had learned a lot despite his early years by the help of general greatheart who had been his teacher and foster father in Gen dandaswhy Penrod really was feared now more by the enemy than anyone else no one knew.He was always with the greatest of allvthe girlscout leaders, and sepnt so much time going on scouting parties with them that all soldiers called him"The second Radcliffe, and he sure was a guardian of all the girlscouts known by him. No one knew that he had already wirrten two big books about his own exprinces in the terrible war and of the girlscouts that he loved and adored so well, and also an extra book of the history of his experiences with the Vivian Girls and that he could tell anyone full facts more wonderful than thrilling fairy tales about any adventure he had about the war with the foe which was more thrilling than any experience of those in fairy tales in the edounters with giants, dragons and so forth.To night or this afternoon rather he was busy more busier than usual, and his lamp was nearly out.The smoke from distant forest fires was making the sky darker.When his li lamp showed it needed oil he c would go and fill it.Wile being unusually busy this time caused him to see something thrilling while everybody in the camp was too busy to know what was going on.

Over in the big house where the boys had left the spy, and the two children an ernormou w column of smoke went bursting from the roof as if it was a volcano in eruption.Then the roof burst into flames the dec cedar andpine trees caught untill the sky was red with an angry glare.The forest fire had come up and struck the place but fortunately was swervin g off from general Aronburgs headquarters.It lighted up the eastern panes of gertrudes head quarters but the in inmates and all within tired from the usual part a party one the last of the adventure on the raft had taken a rest to sleep the afternoon off.The glare spreading like lighting lightning shone full across the room through the window and on Dolores bed, but she was dreaming of being chased by Glandelinians in big black hoods and only turned uneasily in her sleep.

Penrod on his way to go out of his tent noticed that despite it being twilight it seemed suddenly strangely light on theoutside.He went out to look.

"Well for the love of---" he exclaimed ext excitedly as he saw in that distance a wall of trees a mile long suddenly and almost one us simultaneously burst into a sea of flames."That house is struck by the forest fire,and somone will be burned there if I do not make haste and raise the alarm."

He fired off hispistols three times into the air, and not waiting to close the door behind him or even to ca ch something to protect his head from the flying embers of the roaring forest fire he ran out across the meadow jumped on his horse and gallooped forward.He urged his horse on as fast as it could galloop for the house leaped the fence and down the hill to the burning house by the mill sp spring.All one side of the big wooden structure was in flames but the forest fire was turning its course.The fire was curling around the front door and bursting through the windows with fierce cracklings but the noise was greater from the burning trees.He dismounted and dashed frantically around to the back door, dismounted, and threw himself against it, shouting to know if there was anyone within .A blinding rush of smoke was his only answer and as he backed away from the overpowering heat two figures fell across the doosil in limp little heaps.It was a boy ad girl.Dragging the children to safty and som distance from the burning building and forest, he ran back fearing that someone else might be in danger but this time a fury of flames met him at the door and it was impossible to go in.His hoarse shouting roused the en v whole camp in this locality but by the time they reached the scene the roof of the house had fallen in andone wall gave way throwing up a big cloud of sparks but there was no danger of the forest fire spreading to the camp as the edge of the camp was in an extensive clearing and also on the shore of the flood.

While Penrod was bending over the little boy and girl trying to bring them back to their senses, Gertrude Angeline, and all her girlscouts and officers and many of the boys too came either running or riding down to the scene. The shouts, the sudden warmpth and the crackling roar of the flames had awakened them all and they all had com down to see what had happened and to lend a hand if possible..

"How did it happen for the forest fire to get here"she demanded breathlessly."Are the children badly burned.Are anyone else hurt.Is the spy in the building ."K

No one gave an answer to her rapid questions as no one knew anything. Penrod shook his head but did not yet look up.He was bending over the boy and girl trying to restore them to consciousness.He seemed and did n know the right things to do for them for in a little while the children opened their eyes and looked around wonderingly.In a few minutes both were able to tell what they knew about the fire.It was not much, only a horrible recollection of being awakened by a feeling that he was chocking in the thick smoke that filled the room, of hearing shots, and of seeing their father fall dead in the room.Then there had been an awful moment of grouping through the but blinding chocking smoke and helping his sister both trying to finda way out.Three men sprang to the windows and make their escape andone had a torch in his hand and as the outside air rushed through the opening they had left it seemed to fan the smoke instantly into flame.

The terrified s children too chocked to scream for aid had struck out at the wall of flame with their h lpless little hands, and then half scrazed by the scorching pain dropped to the floor and crawled in the opposite direction just as Penrod burst open the door. The sight of the poor little blistered face and hands of the two children brought the tears to the eys of all, and Gertrude called two of her boyscouts directing them to carry the children and place them on her horse and then go at once for an army doctor.Gertrude knew how to prepare the cooling bandages that were needed, and she determined to sit up all night to apply them.H She could not sleep now after such great excitement.

"We all seem responsible for the poor kids."said Gertrude."Since it happened in our camp and my two boyscouts brought h them here it seems to me that we ought to have the care of him and his sister."

There was no oppis opposing Gertrudes masterful way and the two were placed upon her horse. A number of soldiers were left to guard the ruins lest some stray y sparks should be blown tward the tents.

"I wasn't mistaken after all"thought Penrod to himself."There were some suspicious characters prowling round not long ago.Taking advantage of the fire, they killed the man and tried to kill the children too."

Then he searched the ground all around the ruins for footprints in the mud.He found many tracks presently and followed them over the meadow and across the road and down a railroad track several yards.There they suddenly disappeared.

the Glondelinians had evidently got upon horses and rode away.If Penrod had gone quarter of a mile farther up the tracks he would have found horse hoof prints on every other cross tie as if the horses had been galloping off swiftly.The children in Gertrudes headquarters denied stoutly that the Glondelinians had set fire to the building "But they shot father"he said"when questioned about it afterwards."

"Then what made the Glondelinian take to their heels, and why didnt they have a torch if they didn't set fire to the cabin?"asked Dolores."

"I don't know"answered the [illegible] boy."Before he was killed papa said luck was always against him."

After the boy gave a description of his father Penrod whistled.I "I know that man on sight"he said to Gertrude."He was a noted spy who had escaped from the Glondelinian camps after making a raid and many times had been arrested by Glondelinian military police.There is no mistaking him.That big ugly scar branded him on the [illegible] cheek and forehead like another cain.That scar is from a sabre wound delivered from a [illegible] Glondelinian officer.But they got him at last poor soul."

"And to think that poor man was murdered on my camp grounds!"exclaimed Angeline Riches when she heard of it."And those two boys were down there in the cabin with him for hours.Sat beside him and talked with him.It's lucky they were not down there at that time of the fire.Will will general Aronburg say?I feel as if we had been exposed to the small pox and I cannot be too thankful now that the boys were not with him then.We will have to do something for the poor mans children.I have detailed a hundred men to try and capture those murderers.I believe the Glondelinians are to blame for the fire and the poor kids do not know it.It is only the probable thing that can save these children from further harm is to shield him among us scouts.I shall see what can be done about it as possible.These refugees are reduced as in as horrible a condition as children of the slums by these vile Glondelinians."

"The Glondelinians murdered the poor man" The other Penrod and his brother Fred repeated the expression, with only a vague idea of its meaning.It seemed to set everything on the wo[illegible] wrong so nothing that their happy well filled lives must not be allowed even to touch.

The poor children too were attractive children and found his way easily or found their way easily into the hearts of every one.Every one found their cheeks tempting to kiss and every one was moved by a feeling of pity, and they had longed to stoop adput affectionate arms around them.

"What a blessing that there are such armies like our own close by here "said Gertrude."and its a blessing for the children that we were close by and that Penod first saw the fire."

"We must make arrangements for them to be put into one of our upper rooms as soon as they are able to be moved.For what they went through, for for her timely warning to us I will try to get the girl into our scout force and the boy too as a reward.Meanwhile those those men must catch those murderers."

"I think they will be very loathe to leave Us now."answered Mildred Maxwell. "And the two boys Pen, and his brother Fred have been very good to the little girl and boy, as they told me had amused them by the hour this morning, telling them those thrilling stories of their experiences since they became scouts.What good boys those little foreigners turned out to be and what delightful manners they have in every way.I am glad we have them in our ranks."

"Yes "said Mary Glorinia"And when these two are all right from their burns I want every girl and boy scout to go and see them often.I asked Jack who is at Gertrudes Uncles if he could not teach the new boys when he recovers the use of his leg again at least make a beginning with them, and he appeared much pleased.He is a good driller though he has been once in a while somewhat careless, and would be very glad of the oppurt[illegible]ortun ity."

"That reminds me"said Mary Stunck"Jack asked me if the two boys who had harbored the girls could not take them down to him this afternoon if their burns are not too bad.He thought it would give the two so much pleasure if they could see his little "heroine" Jean, and might help them to forget their suffering, and the grief of the death of their father."

Gertrude Angeline hesitated.

"I do not believe that Minnie would like it"she answered."And my Uncle is careful about their condition you know and maybe they cannot be moved. Better bring Jack and Jean here inst ad as they can come and do not need to stay h there.You can imagin e how much experience this boy and girl must know when you remember how they have been reared by their murdered father.He told me his name is Hander Weaver and his sisters name is Jean too think of it.I questioned him very closely after he was brought here.He come from the very worst district of the flood horror.For days and days he and his sister and father had slept in cellars and in tree tops to avoid drowning.He has a

brother only a littleolder who perished in the flood with their mother and grand parents and also other beloved relatives.They lost their hard earned savings and home the savings of a life time swept away.Then their father is murdered before that they had half starved and begged."

"Poor little tots"murmured Jane Melfort.

"It was after the escape from the flood they came away with their poor father"continued Gertrude"His father too had gotten possession of everything needed in some way.His father no doubt then [illegible] thought it would be a good thing to have his children with him to help him work schemes on the enemy.They walked all the way from the north down here starting from Angelinia Aenthia, the boy told me, excepting three days journey in a boat down on the flood.They have been four months on the road.Then [illegible] the enemy may have been located."

"Think what a Christmas they must have had."exclaimed Angeline Riches.

"Christmas.Ho you talk about Christmas"said Dolores scornfully."I doubt now a days if we even ever remember hearing the word.Christmas in his hall.He he, Gertrude you make us laugh.There's no such thing as Christmas, N ew Y ears, nor Easter for us.Anyhow the lads speech is something shocking nothing but the slang of the refugees and so ungrammatical that I could scarcely understand him at times.It's all the fault of Glondelinians.He ought to go down like the "cities of the Plains."N o I a[illegible] very sure that we must do something for them to get even with the enemy ourselves.Think of the dreadful tons we suffered suffered in our own adventures."

"And the poor lad is so little, Dolores, and so sick and [illegible] looking." "pleaded Elsie."Surely he can ot know very much of happiness, and so the boy and girl, that is Jack and Jean could easily com down and cheer them up for a little whil while."

"Nothwithstand Gertrudes fears concerning Jacks leg, she consented to the lad and Jean visiting the sick and burned children.Jack of course had to be brought on [illegible] in a covered wagon as he could not walk yet.They spent an inte interes'ing hou t among the others too.However the two children did not seem to be cheered up by the visit as much as Gertrude had expected. Presently Gertrude left the room, and Jean herself sat down on the side of the boys bed for he was more to be pitied than his sister.

"What makes you so still Hander"she asked."You have not said a word for the last half hour."

"I was thinking about my lost mother and brother."he answered keeping his face turned away."My brothers name was Heidi you know."

"Yes so Miss Aronburg said."answered Jean."How big was he?"

"Bout as big as yourn"pointing to Jack, and she smiled at the mistake but she said nothing.There was a choke in the boys voice now.Seeing yourn put his arm across your good shoulder and patting your head sort of loving like like, made me think the way my brudder used to do to me."

Jean did not know what to say, and so there was a long awkward pause.

"I'd never a left him"said the little boy Hander "but the flood took him away.N ow papas gone sister is sick and burned, and me too and I don't know how I can even enjoy living.Him and me's we all each other had, and now he's gone."

The little fellows lip quivered and he put up one a bandaged hand to wipe away the hot tears that would keep coming in spite of his efforts not to make a baby of himself before this good girlscout leader.There was something so pitiful in the gesture that Jean looked across at Jack in the wheelchair and then patted the boys head with an affectionate little hand.

"Never mind Handie"she said"You'll be safe with us now now.

"But I'm afraid I won't be here then" he sobbed."I'm afraid the general's going to put me and my sister in an asylum, and then we don't get out for ever so long."

He was crying violently now.

"Who's going to put you in an asylum!"asked Jack lifting an end of the pillow under which the little boys head had burrowed to hide the grief that the little [illegible] lads man ood made him too proud to show.

[illegible] they say out where I come from that a sylum was a proper place for the children of the slums.N [illegible] I have nobody to care for me.Oh don't let them shut me up some where so I can't never see anything any more."

"Gertrude won't let any one sh t you or your mist r up in an asylum."said Jacks."And you are mistaken me boys. Miss Gertrude has the say.No one can contradict her authority th t at the Virtue Girl Princesses.We are residing in this camp with all these acres of trees cream d it and orchards and the yards, and all the soldiers here are ever so good to us children, and we get plenty to eat and wear and nice uniforms as you see we have on, and we have lots of fun putting it over on the enemy."

"Couldn't you get her to make me soldiers sister n out?" the boy asked pleadingly.

"Well yes we sure can for she said she'd do it."said Jack as he heard Gertrude coming back."She's going to have me as your scout teacher and you'll get along all right.We always help people that is in trouble, and cheat the enemy.And we have a lot to settle with me enemy too.See my leg and head.An And see her shoulder? Well that's a mere trifle of what happened besides ain't it jane?"

She merely nodded.

The little boy took his little nose out of the pillow as the girlscout ception general came in, and looked around defiantly as if ready to fight the one who dared to hint that he had been crying.Jeanand Jack then went into Gertrudes room while the two boyscout brothers were seen coming up the Compan Street their arms thrown across each others shoulders.

"Suppose it was us."Said Fred after walking on a little way in silence. "Suppose that you and I were left of all the family, and didn't have any friends in the world and I was to get separated from you and could never get back!"

"That sure would be luck which any one would call pretty touch sih!"answered Penrod.

"Don't you expect the little boy and girl feels as badly about it as we would, and yet it has happened!"asked Fred.

"I should not be at all surprised"said Penrod, beginning to whistle.Fred joined in, and keeping step to the tune like the two little soldiers they were they marched on in into the house.Dolores found them in the library a little while later sitting on a rug tailor fashion.They were still talking about the ufort unfortunate boy and girl, and they could not think of anything else but the loneliness of the little waifs, and their pitiable appeal"Oh don't le t anyone shut us up where we can't never be free again.

"Why don't you write to Emperor Vivient"asked Dolores, when they had told her the story of their shelding the boys father in the burned house.

"Oh its so hard to explain things in a telegram"answered Penrod, and being off there Had said that he left everything concerning the wants of us scouts up to the matter of his beloved daughters for they themselves certainly know best.But they are not returned and if they could see these two---how pit iful looking they are and hear them crying not to go to a hbhe I know they'd feel the way we do about it.Gertrude wants Jack to train them as scouts and Jack put us up to it first till he gets better."

"I called Miss Aronburg out in the hall, and told her so."said Fred and asked her if she'couldn't make them good scouts.And she said, that was her intention and she smiled in that big kindly way she always does.She said these unfortunates are lots of good company and she would like them to learn as soon as they are well from their burns."

"Then she intends to make them scouts too"asked Dolores looking surprised.

"Yes"said Penod"But that doesn't help matters much for most of all we children are the only ones selected to learn him drill."

"We might try to learn them something even while they are not us "suggested Dolores, after a while, breaking a long silence.

"How!"Demanded Penrod."Now Miss Mic-Hollester, you know as well as I do there is no way for us to do such a thing so soon, with this army moving to morrow to frustrate Mylatses purposes.To try anything now is like trying to pick fruit in the dead of winter, o or pull weeds or rake leaves.What other way is there we might then."

"We might learn him the codes and exhibit the maps."said Fred".

"Now you made me think of it"cried Dolores excitedly."I've thought of a good way.We'll first to entertain the poor kids give them a good show and a benefit like good singers have. Penrod can be the star performer and we can get all the scouts to act too.and and so furth.I love to arrange things.We were always having them out at the fort."

"I bid to show off the maps."cried Penrod entering into Dolores plan at once"Maybe that'll help us learn something better too."

"I'll help fix the maps"said Fred,"and have one of the girl artists color them, and I will be in anything you want me to be.How many maps are you going to have Dolores?"

"I can't tell yet"she answered, but a moment after she cried out her a es shining with pl a pleasure"Oh I've thought of a lovely one.We can have the Little Abbieanndan Girl called the Colonel in it too."

Penrod promptly turned a somersault on the floor, to express his approval but came up with a grave face saying"I'll bet that Miss- Angeline Richee or the other superior girlscout general will say we can't do it."

"Let's get Gertrude Angeline, the highest of them all on our side."suggested Dolores."She's up in her room now drawing a plan of some kind."

Somehow a little sick of disappointment escaped Gertrudes lips as she made a slight mistake in her work, and then she heard the rush of feet on the stairs.This was the first time that she had touched her bru shes since all had come ashore from the raft, and she had hoped that this one afternoon would be a successful one for her in her map work.There was no disappointment however in the bright face she turned toward them, and Dolores lost no time in beginning her story.Anyhow she had been elected to tell it but before it was done all three had had a full part in the telling and all three were waiting with wistful eyes for the answer.

"Well what is it you want me to do?"she asked finally.

"Oh just to take si sides with us"they exclaimed and "and not let the two Angelines oppose us.You see they may not feel about it as we do.I know they are willin too to pay a great deal of effort to have them taken care of but Angeline Richee says she doesn't see why any of the boyscouts of hers wishes to train them when one has been selected already.B t Jacks leg may take a long time to enable him to walk around and we thought it would be best to begin it ourselves to help Jack."

Gertrude Angeline answered Penrods last remark a little sternly.

"You mustunderstand that it is for my own good that she is opposed to the idea."she said."It was I who selected Jack to do the training, nd there is no one in the whole camp so generous, kind and so wise as Miss Angeline Richee. I cannot interfere with her ways even if she is only equal to me in rank."

"Yes'm"said Dolores meekly"But you'll ask her wont you please Miss Aronburg?"

Gertrude smiled at her persistence. "I do not need to ask her."She answered. "I will till I finish this map and I'll go down stairs and tell her I decided to let you take Jacks place for the present, but on ly you three.And I'll report the matter to you at supper time.Now are you satisfied?"

"Yes,"they cried in chorus"You are on our side.It's all right now."With a series of hearty hugs that left her almost breathal, breathless they hurried away. When Gertrude Angeline kept her promise she did not go to Angeline Richee with the story of the little boy and girl who was burned nnot to request nor to move her pity.She told her simply w what they wanted, and then said;

"Angelin e"You know I have selected Jack to learn them some thing, but as it is not easy to tell when he can be on his feet again I have decided to let Penrod, his brother and Dolores to do the work work for me.Dolores has learned every move of girlscout signalling an d so has Virginia Launfal and the boys will soon know all the preludes of the best drilling.There will never be a better chance than this for them to do the work, before the army moves, and this would be a real sharing of themselves, all their tim and best energies for they will have to work hard to get up such a drilling entertainment as this.It isn't for the sake of the two rescued children I suggest this but it is for their own good.They are safer with us as scouts or within the lines, than or than if we sent them away.So I have decided that these three will do it, and Virginia will take her turn to relieve them at times so they can rest, and then to relieve Jack when he does it."

Angeline Richee looked thoughtfully out of the widow at the distant smoke of the forest fires a moment and then said"

"Maybe you are right Gertrude.You are the suprior and you know best.I do want to have all my boys do what is good and not be selfish.If this little injured boy, and the girl who lost their father can teach them something and the boys and dolores can learn them our own works I do not want to stand in the way.Bless their little hearts, they may do it if they want to, and say they have them at the best. "

Gertrude knew they what the boys had desired would work good success and gain Jacks confidence, and Gertrude decided to take charge of it.There was less than a week of course to get r ady, as the two children rescued from the fire would be well enough then and Gertrude hoped that in so short a time the preparations would be so beautiful and elaborate that the whole army would talk of it for months afterwards.

Gertrude always had before this spent a sleepless night planing her campaigns like the girlscout general she was, and therefore that afternoon at two oclock had an army of helpers at work.News came that the man who hadkilled the christian spy, had been shot down by persuing cavalry as they escaped from the camp, and so that was their end.While the boys were at work she sent a tele graphic letter to Jennie Turner.

"Dearest friend Jennie, "the letter read"Send me some suggestion if you love me as soon as this letter reaches you.I am back in my uncles army at Horseshoe Bend.All my scouts are getting up means to train two rescued children a boy and a girl, which will be duly explained on the next letter. There is no time now, as I must hurry as I want Uncle to advance his army to morrow to come to the help of vivianis who is resisting Mylatzes advance in vain.I am superintending a force of men to scure the country for enemies who might seek their lives and am also helping Miss Richee scour the country for more children to bring swiftly into the army.The whole camp is like an ant hill in com otion comnotion, there is so much work, and so much scurrying around, drilling, and so forth but I know that is what you always enjoy.You shall have a finger in every pie if you will help me to make this a never to be forgotten occassion by their suggestion s.

I want to make the old days of chivalry live again for all of our surviving scouts, and especially for Dolores, Virginia and others.I am having Mildred to explain things for them therefore give us the benefit of your tarlent for sweet chadrys sake and for the sake of the countrys cause and your devoted friend, and loving companion;;;;

Get Gertrude Angelinia,,,
Alias Angelinia
Aronburg.If she is there give my regards to , well you know who is Radcliffe.But reveal nothing to no one.
Your Loving Friend....."

"She'll be sending some suggestion here"said gertrude as she sealed the note nudding confidently to Angelina Jennings who had com to help in her plans."I suppose you remember Jennie gurner do you k not.She took the prize in every scouting work she accomplished and was always in demand for something violet, and her sisters wanted done.She is the most charming girlscout leader I have ever known and as for spying expeditions- -well even violet, and her sisters often said she's better than even they.You must let all the girlscout leaders come over tomorrow if possible."

General Aronburgs batch of boy and girlscouts arived back in camp about three oclock that afternoon,and their appearance was a tim of continual delight to the other boy and girlscouts.. They followed them wherever they went untill Angeline richee laughingly called their leader the"Pied Piper of Hamelin ,and asked them what they had done to bewitch the whole w force.At ten after three they gathered around the tables in the big room as all as busy as honey an and bumble bees, but as silent as if they were not there.Fred and the little girlscout known as the Little Angeline Colonel were cutting papers to be made into codes later on for the training of the rescued girl and boy. Penrod was gilding his spurs which they looked so old as rusty, Angeline Richee sat stringing something us unusual like beads that gleamed softly in the candle light like great ropes of pearls, and Gertrudewas painting the map she had not finished which she had intended to use to help general Aronburg survey the advance of Isner Mylatze. Angeline richee who had been busy at time with pasteboard and glue for som reason only known to her and also with tinfi tinfoil and scissors held upa new uniform she had sewed, and to which she had just been fishing the last decoration.

"Isn't that fine"said Penrod."It looks exactly like the one who is going to wear is will appear like a prince or a princess doesn't it Joan?"

"I've thought of a good riddle."exclaimed Dolores."Why is Gertrude Angeline"s head like the little magic lamp that Aladddin had."

"Cause its so bright and clever, and because she has only to rub it and then everything she thinks of appears"said Jean who was sitting on the bed"I don't see how it ispossible she can think of so many things to help ow christian army along and make plansot almost out of nothing."

Dolores looked admiringly around at all the pretty [illegible] and red and blue plumes and a beautiful queenly uniform was hanging on a hook of crimine color while a sabre with a jewled hilt shone on the mantle and a dozen dazzling [illegible] on the low book shelves.It was easy in the midst of such surroundings for the girlscouts to be [illegible] fighting [illegible] while Angeline richee sat there telling them such beautiful tales of the noblemess of many girls she had known,and of what Violet and her sisters had done.Indeed before the days had come around they had even found themselves talking with all kinds.. The table in the rooms were strewn with books of military life of girl ad boyscouts, and of the [illegible] of the Bible times were easily seen.There was [illegible] around with him whth he was studying for goodness purposes.The [illegible] injured and burned children lay.

"Think how grand Violet and her sisters must have looked "the boy said to the lad"Yet none of us are dressed like them."I've seen them wear even for uniforms a suit of white velvet embroidered with seed pearls, ad literally blazing with jewels---even the buttons being great brilliants.From their shoulders as I have seen them hung a cloak of azure purple velvet the color of our National uniforms richly wrought with gold but only in winter and on cold days did they wear anything round their necks and then they wore the magnificent colears of Princesses which was the personal gifts of their father His Majesty the Emperor. Think how splendid it must have been Hander when every time the Vivian Girls came in the camp on good peaceful days the procession came in to the music of great Abbiesnnian Bands and bugles and silver fluits and even scottish bagpipes and other musical instrumentals. Wouldn't you lik to have seen the hearlds marching by two by two in cloth of gold with onescort of the guards of the Vivian Girls following!All of Abbiesnnia's best and bravest were there, and they sat on their magdficent horses while the cavarly escorts followed in the rear with their gorgeous banners drooping over them.Oh don't you wish you could have seen them Handie when they came riding in, the bravest and pretties little girls o in all the world, and the goddiest.!"

"It was all greek to Henders, and his little sister.The descriptions puzled him and her too, but he enjoyed Freds description of them and the uniforms of the retainers. Fred remembered how often how he had seen Violet and her sisters dressed either in beautiful velvet uniforms of white blue, or purple, and lavender ablaze with rhine stones and glittering jewels and other times only in plain uniforms as scouts.Once Violet had been wrapped in his mothers cape, and as she had thrown it off Freds eyes had opened wider and wider with wonder, and forgetting her dignity he had said;

"Hi.You li look like a whole jewl jewellers window, dazzled by the gorgeous sight,she had laughed at his remark and had answered;"Pretty eh.But its only imitation"she explained"but it looks just as good as the real things we have left at home which we even dare not wear in the enemy for fear of the envy at exiling it.But if you boys want to see glitter com to our home sometime and I'll show you some sights, and so will my sisters."

But Fred never yet had the opportunity, he did not even know, and the Princess had to tell him of her home in Angelinia Agathia and therefore he remembered many things, and the way she and her sisters were he had longed to have been their brother.Indeed many boys had the same desire, not because they were so pretty, and so richly dressed at time but because despite their high office, their riches, and so forth they were like Saints of the middle names they had. Fred now was greatly interested in watching the long trains of wagons pass by, and the military carpenters and engineers at work making pontoons across a narrow stretch of the inundation and of other carpenters fixingup the big raft at Gertrudes request so that it could be made to use as a ferry in case of necessary during Aronburgs advance southward to oppose Mylatze and help vivianis.He had never seen the raft before and was quite astonished at its immense size.

"How do you suppose the Vivian Girl Princesses felt"he said to Henders"Who saw so many troops falling in battle so often day after day and the country had here despite all the noble deeds they have done.They must have been dreadfully ashamed and they felt they would have tried to do something worthy of their countrys cause if they had died for it."

"There was one thing that Fred did remember."Something,--it may have been the soft rich color of the jewel broidered velvet that the vivian Girl Princesses always wore- or may haybe frequently the flush that rose to their cheeks at the thrill of such noble thoughts---something had often brought an unusual beauty

into their faces.Fred remembered that as he himself stood there, with head held high his dark black eyes flashing, his fl face glowing, and in that princely uniform purple coat ad uniform he had looked to them every inch a noble man.and to him there was something so pure and swet too in the expression of their faces that the light upon it to him seemed to touch them into almost unearthly fairness. Also the lad had remembered that on of them had been watching him with a tender smile on her beautiful face, and she had embrassed him by drawing him to her ad brushing the hair back on his forehead.

"My good boy"she har said"Your own heart wheart will I hope never be blank and bare.Already you have blazoned our own flag with the beauty of a noble purpose and you are like to me a second sir Galahad."

It had been his turn to be puzzled but he did not like to ask for an explanation, and yet there was something so solemn in the way that little Princess put her hand on his head as she spoke almost as if she had been bestowing a blessing. He was suddely aroused from these thoughts by Gertrudes new aide-decamp George ,immermann coming in to speak with Hendors and his sister.By three thirty everyone of the girl scouts and boys who could get into the big room of the building were present.

"That will be jolly for Handie and his sister."exclaimed Penrod, peeing out from behind the door as he was changing his uniform coat."We counted up that temper d cent of the scouts would be here, and now more have come than I believe we have room for.We will drill them as suggested and show them how we do it.Now to get ready.Where's that Jon sey.I told him to come at Three.He hasn't showed up.I'll put him on bread and water for being late if he doesn't com soone..."""""""""

"Hurry up Penrod"called Fred."We are first on the programe to drill our Company, and its time to begin."

"But I'm waiting for my sergeant Jonsey."

"He can't come.Gertrude placed him on guard at her uncles bedroom."

There was a great hustle as all who recieved the command rushed out into the company street, and then formed into line. The "Little Angelinian Colonel was to drill her own girls, and when she came in sight leading her force of girlscout troopers such a cheering and clapp ng and yelling ad tossing of hats began that they all looked round, some half frightened at the sudden din, but the boys followed immediat ly behind her, Angeline Riches ordered a hush of the noise and the "Little Angelinain Colonel"dressed in her best uniform and almost looking like one of the Vivian Girl Princesses halted her column and her side-decamp rode u out to meet her and the great drills all girl and boyscouts know so well began.The other scouts waiting their turn but just now being as an audience stood on tiptoe in their eagerness to see this jeans troopers perform and were so wild in their applause that she had to do it over and over again.Over the rustle of these drills, and thr hum of conversation that followed the first scene, there presently fell from some unseen spot sweet sad notes of some mucl musical instrument.

Later came Penod, that is Scholefild Penrod himself seated on his famous charger pony looking like a prince of fairyland with his gilded hat that flamed so bright with its plumes and the gilded doves on top.It was really a beautiful picture he made, and Gertrude his friend leaning over or forward from her hoss her face beaming with pride at the boyscout generals noble bearing compared him with Radcliffe "hers-lf" with sabre shouldered from spur to plume a perfect star of" tournament."

.No one at the moment could not see his face it was then turned aside as he was giving an order but as he rode on he was thensuddenly observed.His dark golden hair was like a regular glory and his uplifted arm held the banner he carrid high in the air and the staff had a burnished star.with these great drills caused every one to stand spell bound.

"Could you really understand who he reallly is Teddy!"asked a boyscout.

"Course, indeed."exclaimed the boy, who had followed his sister Sally in her own drilling with the rest.Indeed an an amused smile went round the audience when they heard the "Little Angelinian Colonel"give her sharp orders.She was saying to one of the girls who had blundered the act, either through a mistake from not watching or through carel sely;

"When you are at drill hours Loydd you seem to go through the performance just to get ride of the drill or because you feel younhave to, and if so it doesn't count for anything.But if you drill properly it is like dividing some thing you have got with a friend an and though you would like to keep it all yours-lf because you love to.Therefore you must keep your [illegible] eyes open and do not throw the whole rank out of line.So please don't do it again."

Other drills from the rest of the boys and girls followed in rapid succession and then came the prettiest and most splendid drill of all being the one in which some of the leaders were to give their own displays with their se vits.

The girlscout leader Virginia Heid looked like a little queen in her full dress uniform her long black hair in curls and her jeweled hilted sabre .Dolores, and Jean Anderson in and many others of the girlscout l aders thus appointed helped to fill out the drill pre programe while all the boys that could be pr vailed to take part were dressed up for Angelinian heroine, guardsmen pages and so forth.That drill had to be shown four times, and then the audience of men and officers and those not up appointed to drill kept on applauding as if they never intended to stop. Then by the soldiers on horse came a display of dragoon drills.Then Gertrude Angeline came out on the company Street and told the story of her exp eriences of the flood, and the passing away of the greater part of Calverinia.She told it so well that many listened with their mouths open seeming to see the great flood. Then she finished with;"True the flood still remains, "but though Calverinia has almost gone to her "death, her sd our own scales have not passed away but have grown day by day.The flower of chivalry is blossoming blossoming anew in this new wor, and we will give Glendelinia all the war she wants, and set the child slaves free."Then came a troop of boys and girls in in white and yellow uniforms and on their breasts each was fastened a picture of some well known christian officer or general who was helping to crush the wicked power of Glendelinia a long long line of them, and the first was Emeror Vivian, and his Brother, the second the Princesses, and the last was a funny picture of geral John Manley, with the noise of Gump, a high stove pipe hat six feet taller than his head and a pair of eye glasses that had rims three tims bigger than his eyes.For all the other pictures cheer after cheer went up but at the appearance of the comic, the air was shaken with the screeches of laughter that came from every one who saw it.Then to satisfy the military loving little Dolores one more drill was added.Thisctime an awe inspiring scene was presented. Angeline Riches herself lay on the ground with a sheet thrown partly over her with the words "CALVERINIA" in big letters, while above her stood Gertrude dressed in long flowing robes with a great crown on her head an an immense sword in her hand holding back an enormous monster with the words written on the crown of its head"Dragon of glendelinia, while a little dark eyed girl knelt at Gertrudes feet as Angeline vine State while at two boys s who stood for army and navy said to Gertrude;"Yes Miss Abbiennia I will help you keep the Dragon off of your little sister.A large sheet was lying on all sides of Angeline Riches, with imagin images of broken houses strewn on it symboling the flood, while not far from it lots of rubbish was burning signifying forest fires."

It was late when the military performance closed about near to five oclock later still when all the scouts reached their respective places. The girlscout Virginia Heid rode up and down in her uniform directing her boys and girls to close ranks and march off, and Penrod that is the captian general still remained seated on his hose admiring the handsome little figure that Jean herself showed him who had drilled too despite her wounded shoulder.

"When This war is over"said Jean"I'd hate to take of f this splendid uniform.I'd like to be a girlscout always, and ride horses and wear a sabre and spurs every day."

"So we can if we choose to do so"said Angeline Riches."I hope the two turned children enjoyed the scene.Isn't it splendid the way the drills and the performances turned out so well.Gertrude said there is plenty to remember for us all now and it will get us a chance to do better work if general Arenburg thinks best, and she hasn't any better plan."

"I wish there were enough boys and girls to bring here to increase the size of our force"said Dolores.Would it not have been lovely if we had not lost so any on the raft."

"Well I should say"answered Penrod.Maybe we can recruit a number some day and makeup enough for that by getting the many som day."

With this pleasantprospect before them, they laid ashide the dress uniforms and prepared for the coming of the supper call .During the drilling and other performances flash light pictures of everything going on had been taken by some of the officers, and therefore when Fred and his brother got into possession of one of them apiece Fred carried his away to his room to admire in private."It is so pretty and handsome that it do sn't seem it can be me"he said propping it up on the desk before him."I wish I could look that way always.A few moments later Angeline Riches went in to the room

to straight on front for him she found that Fred had writ n under it in his own boyish hand, a quotation that had taken his fancy the first time he had heard it. It was in one of Gertrudes stories and he repeated it until he had learned it"Live pure wholesome lives as scouts, always speak the truth, right the wrong, defend the weak, succor the helpless, follow the leader

obey, and respect and love all your fellow scouts."

larger obey, and respect and love all your fellow scouts."

She asked him about it before Mess call came for supper.

"Why that's our motto," he replied. "My brother has written it under his too. We have made up our minds to be a sort of a scout of that kind just as well the next thing as we can you know, and that is what all boyand girlscouts have to do, live pure, speak truthfully, right all wrongs and defend the weak and helpless. All of us try to do the same thing as that is not hard. But sometimes right the wrong is a pretty tough job but we have often done it by rescuing child slaves, and we have done it for Hender and his little sister Jean. It was all wrong that the Glandelinians should kill their father. Penrod and I have been talking it over. If we could do something to bring him and his sister up as a good scouts and learn him how to frustrate those awful glandelinians would not that be as good a deed as any knights of old have done. Would not that be serving our country too, Miss Richee?" he asked the question anxiously. Penrod said nothing but also waited with a wistful look for her answer.

"My dear little boyscouts" she said, bending over to give each of the boys a kiss on the forehead "You will be truly g knights if you can live up to the motto you have chosen. Heaven Heaven and our Blessed Lord help you be always as worthy of that title as you are to n day."

Fred help held her a moment with both arms aro n around her k neck.

"What does that mean though Miss Richee?" he asked."

"It is too late to explain to day" she said "But I will tell you some time. butcome in to my room I wish to give you something."

They obeyed. Then from a little moroco case lined with purple velvet she took two pins that she had in her possessions long time. Each was a little white enamel flower with a tiny diamond cros s in the cen ter like a drop od dew.

"You can't wear anythin g but unoforms un iforms in these days" she said as she fastened one on the lapel of each boys uniform cous coat "But this shall be the badge of yor boyscout work---wearing the white flower of a blameless life. The little pins will help you to remember, maybe and will remind you that you are pledged to right the wron g wherever you fin d it in little things as well as great."

It was a very earnest talk that followed. The boys came out from her room afterwards wearin g the tiny white pins in deed, and with a sweet seriousness in their faces. A n oble purpose had been burn in their hearts. The first thing they did was to tell Dolores and others the fact that she should be wearing a pin also. Though she in sisted she could never be a knight because she was only a girl the boys laughed and Penrod said;

"That's all rot. You can be a knight anyhow whether you be a girl or a boy and girls in this army are lots better than boys, now what do you think of that."

"But." she began when Angeline Richee coming up in time to hear the words said;

"The boys are right Dolores." They ought to mean the same thing exactly in this day of the world. "Dolores you should have a badge too. Run into my room and brin g me that little jewlled flag of our country on my cushion."

She did.

"I think that this is the very prettiest piece of jewlerly you have" exclaimed Dolores coming back with the pin. "It is a little flag, whose red, green yellow purple and white was made of tiny settings of garnets, sapphires, and diamonds.

"You think that because it is in in the shape of a flag" said Angeline Richee with an amused smile. "Well it s n shall be yours. See how well it can remind you of the boys knightly motto of boyscouting. surely no soldiers little daughter needs to be told what the colors stand for when her own brave father has spilled part of his good red life blood to right the wrong on our fields of battle."

"Oh Miss Richee" was th all that Dolores could gasp in her delight as she clasped the pretty pin tightly in her hand. "Is it mine, For my very own !"

"For your very own dear!" was the answer.

"Oh I'm so glad." cried Dolores, thanking her with a kiss. "I'd a thousand times rather have it than one like the boys. It means so much more."

early after the Mess there came out surprisingly for a few min utes in the west the sun through the smoke in the sky looking like a great red ball.

"Exactly the kind of a sure sunset they must have in Hades." Dolores said. "Well as we ourselves did not have any supper yet let's eat in the big hay barn over there."

It was decided on, by the two boy friends of hers, and they piled the hay that was left up on one side of the great airy room, set wide the big double doors and swept it clean .

"It's clean enough now for even Violet, and her sisters to eat in if they ever should come." said Dolores as she spread a cloth on the table, some of the boyscouts had carried out for them. "It's good enough for even a queen. Oh I'll tell you what's let do Let's have a sort of banquet and while we are eating Fred can be out knight who comes to our rescue and carrys us off on his pony."

"That's all right," consented Fred "but for the eating part. How can we get out share of the supper.?"

"We will save it for you." answered Virginia who was with them. "He shall be my assistant and help me rescue her. We can have Jean with us too. I'll go ask her now. We might as well play some game while we have the chance for to morrow the army advances and we won't have the chance. If it don't go we are on duty to morrow anyhow."

This day had made a great change in little Jean Saunders. With plenty of care for her wounded shoulder she had grown much more better quicker too than was ever expected for the little heroine; even though she said she still had lots of pa n pain and fever in her arm. With plenty to eat her face had grown plump and bright again. There was a good humoured twinkle in her sharp eyes and being quick as a monkey at doing anything she was asked she was the pride of the whole force. Having rescued Jack she was the "fair Heroine of the party. Their pride in her was something amusing. By the time Fred was back again with Jean, the other guests had arived. The banquet began in a great state, but in a few minutes was interrupted by a fearf l shrieking from a deep feed bin.

"Help me sombody" came the words. "Ow my leg is all bleeding. Get me out, get me out. Quick who ever you are in the barn."

All in the barn looked at each other aghast. Penrod Fred brother sprang up but was promt promptly motioned to stand back by a warning shake of Virginias head.

"Who's there in that bin?" she called.

"A girl" came back the answer in a word of distress. "I ran away from the Dandelinians for they were going to do something awful to me."

Seeing that the child who ever she was was really terrified, the boys opened the door of the bin which was locked on the outside. The child was brought from the bin red and angry. Fred brushed the cobwebs from her face and hair, and he persauded her to climb a ladder into a loft just above them untill he was ready to take her to be looked over by Penrod.

"U here untill you are looked over" he said cooly. "Remember unt remember little girl untill we have a knowledge of you you are for this time being a prisoner. Keep on that pile of hay before the open window where you can see across a peaceful meadow. Remember too don't try to go untill we know who you are. We want to know what you were doing in this barn, you a stranger and not a scout either."

"I tell you I was a fugitive" she stammered.

"I'll listen to explanations afterwards" he said. "Are you hungry.?"

She answered "Yes."

A few minutes later Penrod came up the ladder with a plateful of the choicest motsels of the feast, and she began to enjoy her once in her life good meal. Virginia was sen t to inform Pen rod if he was there of the new comin comer, and if he was not there, she was to tell Gertrude, and then the banquet went merrily on.

judge of their distance from it and for an instant he stopped working the handle bar up and down too frightened to know what to do. If he was an older child he might probably have acted differently he might have jumped from the handcarand taking the girl made for higher ground. But Fred had only one idea left, that was to keep ahead of the torrent of water as long as possible hoping the car would you would beat it till he reached the high rise. The flood seemed so far away from the breach he thought they could surely reach the camp before it caught

Virginia found one of the boyscouts,(not leader) waiting below the barn with his pony tied to a tree.On the other side of a long rail fence, lay a railroad tra track which in this section had not been touched by the flood and which skirted the back of General Aronburgs headquarters for over half a mile.

"Do you see that handcar!"asked a boyscout named Jones pointing with his riding whip to one on the track,which sometimes was used by one or other of the generals."The general sometime allows me and others to ride upand down on it when theres none of us on duty.Some of the soldiers left it on the switch some time ago after using it, and while you were a upat the barn I got two soldiers to move it back on the line for me.They didn't want to at first thinking the officers might object but I know there is no train running on this track because the restof it is submerged in the flood, and told em so, and they finally did it for a dollar apiece.As soon as I've done I'll take the girl prisoner to Gertrude on the handcar but I'll go it to it with my pony and with her behind or in font of me.Then we'll go through the fence and get on the handcar, and be out of sight around the curvebefore the rest get here. It's down grade all the way to Gertrudes headquarters so I can push it easily enough myself but I'll need your help coming back with her maybe if everything with her is all right.In case she tries toescape suppose some of you out horses lots to the headquarterswe soon as I start from or to the barn and meet w us there.It isn't half as far that way, so you'll get there as soon as we do."

"All s right"said the boy scout."I'm your kid."

"Are you sure you can do it?"

"The boyscout Jones grinde.

"I'll be on time"he said, then as Fred untied hispony, started on a run across the fields.The girl prisoner had not finished her repast when the boyscout appared but she put the plate down at his orders, and obeditently climbed down the ladder hop hadplaced for her.They reached the fence and flying the pony's bridle over a fence post when they reached the edge of the field the boyscout crawled through the fence endpulled the girlsc prisoner after him tearing her dress much to that dainty little ladys extreme disgust, but she could not say anything until she could prove her innocence. In a few minutes they were on the handcar.It moved slowly at first although Fred was strong for his age and his hardly little muscles were untiring.

"Despite knowing herself to be part prisoner and part host the little girl cried as they mus moved faster and faster and swept round the curve"Isn't it lovely.I wish we could go all the wayto Angelinis Agathis on this."

The warm August wind fanned her pink cheeks and blue blew her light light soft hair into her eyes.Jones was waiting near Gertrudes headquarters and waved his cap as they came into sight."The girl wants a ride so we' are going around the next bend before we'll come in."shouted Fred as they passed him."Woop la this is fine, and not a bit hard to work."

"What will the wicked Glandelinians do when they see us!"asked the little girl, laughing happily,as they sped on down the track.

"They won't think or do nothing"said Fred.

"Then if you are sosure, you ought to prove it some day to pay them back for chasing me into that barn and shutting me up in that bin with spiders."Yet she seemed to be delighted with this new experience.For the time she almost in to imagined she was really escaping from Glandelinians.Faster and faster they went.Little Jones who had followed to the second curve on his horse stood watching them with wistful eyes indeed wishing he could be with them.They passed the camp and then the hand car seemed to grow much smaller and then still smaller as it rolled away until it was only a moving spck in the distence. Then he turned and rode back to the barn.

"I believe I have gone far enough."said Fred after a while."We better turn around now and go back the way we came or Glandelinians who may be patrolling the neighbo e neighborhood may see us and come after us.Let's wait here a minute till I rest my arms, and then we'll start."

The place where they had stopped was the most loneliest part of the track that could be found in miles on either side.It too was in the midst of the thick

"Oh Miss Riches"was th all that Dolores could gasp in her delight as she clasped the pretty pin tightly in her hand."Is it mine,!For my very own !"

"For your very own dear!" was the answer.

"Oh I'm so glad,"cried Dolores, thanking her with a kiss."I'd a thousand times rather have it than one like the boys.It means so much more."

"What lovely beautiful flowers on that ba k."cried the little prisoner."Would it not make a beautiful bequest for your girl friends down by the barn."

"I'll get so e"said Fred gallantly springing from the car and clambering up the bank, forgetting that if she was a girlscout any she would have the opportunity of making her escape.Taking out his knife he began to cut as many as his hnd could hold.Then s he suddenly real recollected, he had left the girl alone on the hand car.

"I forgot."he said to himself"If she has escaped----"He looked toward the car, and was surprised to see she was still there, and had not even moved where she had been sitting.

Beneath in the boyscout jones sitting at the handle,bing his heads into the ground and looking hopelessly down the road.Presently Penrod came out everybody toowas interested in the turned boy and girl aroundthe fire, and the hopefit had made them so well kno n.The boyscout with all the fearlessness of the other answered Penrod fearlessly even saucily at times much to Penrods amusement."So you want to be an unusual boyscout around here do you"said Dolores presently with a smile."Maybe I can help you be one.Know anything about flag signalling?"

"Heaps"answered Henders.Well I ought to seeing as I've seen scouts do all that so often and spent my time so often dodging the Glandelinian patrol scouts when I was trying to steal plans and on other things from the enmy officers and such."

"Is that why your father and you an d your sister was hanging round here for?"asked Virginia with a good natured twi twinkle in her eyes.

"No.But see that boy Jones."He's waiting for the Fred scout to com back this way.He went down the track a bit on a hand car taking a girl tward Gertrudes headquarters."

Dolores s r sprang up with anexclamenation of alarm.

"How far has he gone with her!"she demanded."I was down there about two hours ago, and at any moment the flood is brok going to break through a dammed up section.If it goes when they're down there-----"Even whil ch she spoke there sounded far away in the distance so far that it was only like a faint whisper or echoe the noise as of the breaking of a dam.Dolores was about to got on her horse and then stopped.

"What do you suppose they'll do!"she asked."There are so many bends in this road, the flood may come on them before they see or hear its approach if it breaks through that levee.Suppose they'll try and come back or will they jump off and clib a tree to save themselves!"

Virginia her herself glanced around wildly for a few seconds, and then sprang forward tward Dolores.

"I know you have it, give me the switch key quick."she cried in a high thrill voice in her excitement."Your horse can't run down hill fast but I can on foot.Give me the switch key."

Perplexed by the sudden turn of affairs and the little girls commanding tone, Dolores took the key from her saddle.She realised her ownhelplessness to do anything as her horse would stumble in running down the incline, and besides Dolores had a sore foot and couldn't run herself, and there was something in Virginias manner that inspired confidence.She felt her friends quick wit had grasped the situation and formed somesensibleplan of action. Rain could be heard the strange whis orping whip whispering noise, and snatching the key Vie Virginia was off down the track like an arrow.Dolores standing beside her horse walked after her as fast as she could pulling the horse along by the reins.In the meantime Fred, and the little girl having gathered the handful of flowers and started back tward the camp were rolling leisurely along still talking of Glandelinians aound their ways.

"What if we should meet a squadron of Glandelin ian dragoons."cried the little girl."Those Glandelinians you know with the hoods over their heads and the wheels on their breasts.What would you do then."

"I'd trin try to out run them with the handcar."and Fred looked back to smile at the bright laughing face beside him.Then he caught sight of something over his shoulder that made him pause.

"Oh look"he cried pointing over the tree tops behind them.Something like a long white cloud like snow dashing forward and upward trailed along the horizon like a long white ribbon.At the same time there was a rumbling swirling noise.The track behind them had so many turns, he could not judge t of their distence from it and for an instant he stopped working the handle bar up and down too frightened to know what to do.If he was an older child he might probably have acted differently he might have jumped from the handcarand t king the girl made for higher ground.But Fred had only one idea left, that was to keep ahead of the torrent of water as long as possible hoping the car would run would beat it till he reached the high rise.The flood seemed so far away from the breach he thought they could surely reach the camp before it caught

up with them in the lower land and his w sturdy l little arms bent to the task. For a few moments however there was real pleasure in the exertion ,and he felt unexcited thrill and had also the imagination that he was re running away from the enemy with the little girl and rescuing her from a great persuing danger. The noise of the waters sounded louder and nearer and this time seemed so close behin that the little girl h gave a terrified glance over her shoulder and then scream od at the sight of a great foaming monster rolling over the lower plain from the main flood beyond.It was still far down the track but they could hear its terrible rumble as it rushed over the land, could see trees give way before it ad even heard the singing of wires overhead fromthe force of the torrent.

Indeed Fred was straining every muscle now but indeed it was like running in a horrible dream.His armsmoved up and down at a furious speed but never helped it seemed to him that the handcar was glued to one spot.It seemed too that it had been many hours since they first discovered the fall of the flood was after them and he felt that he would soon be too exhausted to move another stroke.Would the rise never come in sight.?Just then they shot around a curve and caught sight of /i little Virginia at a switch wildly beckoning with her cooked hat and shouting for them to come on.At that sight with one supreme effort Fred therefore put his fast failing strength to the supreme test and sent the hand car rolling forward and now upward faster than ever.Finally it w s on high and shot past the switch and got on a viaduct .Virginia having unlocked the switch and the handcar was just up to the highest level just as the flood bore down upon them around the last bend.There was barely time to reach that high level before the flood tur thundered against the high ground and then was deflected in its course.As it went roaring on, a soldier attracted by the sudden waters below the camp cast a curious glance at a handcar on the side track.A little girl sat on it a pretty golden haired child with dark black eyes big with fright, and her face as white as her dress.He wondered what was the matter as he did not see the rescue.For a moment when the flood slightly lowered at that section everything seemed deathly still Fred sat leaning against the embankment white and limp from exhaustion and the excitement of his close escape.Virginia was a panting and wiping the perspiration from her rd ree red face for she had run like a deer to reach the switch in time that would enable the handcar to get on the highest rise.

"I couldn't have held out a minute longer"said Fred presently."My arms felt like the y they had gone dead, and I was just ready to give up when I caught sight of you.That seemed to give me strength to go on when I saw what you were at and it would only be a little farther to go before we were safe.How did you happen to be at the switch, and know how to set it.?"

"I haven't been all my life around engin e yards for nothing."answered Virginia."Why didn't you jump off and go for the hill yonder."?

"I was so taken by surprise that I didn't have time to think of that." answered Fred."The only thing I knew was that we had to keep ahead of the water as long as possibl e.You've saved our lives Virginia, and we'll never forget it as no matter what comes."

"I've been rescued q twice to day"said the little girl, taking a deep breath as she began to recover from her fright."Virginia ought to be a officer t o."

"That's so"exclaimed Fred spring ging to his feet."Come on and lets go to the headquarters.We'll t ll Gertrude our adventures, and then we'll go through the ceremony of making Virginia an officer.She certainly has won her spurs."

"Going back to the headquarters on the handcar?"asked Virginia.

"Not much, the way my arms feel now."answered Fred with a sickly smile. "And besides somhow such fast traveling with a chasing flood b hind you doesn't seem to agree with a fellow.Just now walking is good enough for me."

"Me too"cried the little girl bust tying on her white sun bonnet."But the first part of it was lovely-----just like flying."

Virginia ranback to give Dolores the key and was kept answering questions so long that she did not catch up with the other children untill they were in sight of the barn first.

"After all"said Fred as the three trudged along together"Maybe we had better not tell how near we came being drowned.Gertrude and Angeline Richee, and especially Mildred Maxwell would be dreadfully worried if they should hear of it.They are always worrying for fear something will happen to any of us and it often does in this war you know."

" Mildred would be wild"exclaimed Virginia"If she know I had been in any danger.Maybe she wouldn't let me ough out of her sight ag in for all the year."

"Then let's done tell anything at all."proposed Fred."IT will be our secret just us three."

"All right, the others agreed.They dropped the subject thi then for the big barn was just ahead of them and the gay suppers being partly over those within came running out, demanding to know where they had been so long. Evidently weed would be stiff for a full week to come after his exciting race on the handcar, but nevertheless he did his groaning in private for he knew what a commotion would be raised if the matter came to Mildreds ears and he might even be blamed for the little girls car scare.Mildred had always had constant dread of the dangers that the scouts faced.She had remembered that even Jane Mollfort had been sixteen times carried into camp in a senseless state, each time from some reckless encounter with enemy patrols once during a chase from having been thrown from her horse, and once from falling from the branch of a tree, when hiding from the Glen Islanders. Even Her other charges had fallen through the ice in the rivers during wintery days in Calyrinia, and also Virginia had been shot in thw wrist while scouting and walked in half a score of times with the blood streaming from some wound on her head or face. Dolores had never been hurt but her hairbreadth escapes would have filled a volume .

A really amusing one was the time when out raiding near the foes line way out west she had lassoed a young calf Indian fashion.It's angry mother was however in the next lot, but as long as she had her pistols with her Dolores had felt perfectly safe as she swung her lariat and dragged the bloating calf toward the christian lines. She did not then stop to consider that if a cow saw its calf in danger it might easily leap a low hedge.A warning scout ofone of her boyscouts came just in time to save her from being gored to death by the angry animal who was charging at her with lowered horns. he only however had time enough to save herself by drawing her pistols and shooting the cow it was so close to her before it fell dead.

That evening after supper it was.with some misgivings that Gertrude Angeline and Angelin e Richee started to the other part of the camp.It was the first time since the trip on the raft had finished that they had both gone away at once and nothing but urgent business for general Aronburg would have made them consent to go. The children that is the scouts punished at least a dozen things.They would keep all strangers away from the barn the live stock in the camp, the railroad, and other places and have extra guards set out, nor allow any one without a pass to go outside the camp and they would keep a sharp lookout for scouting patrols coming too close .

"Seems to me the way thing s are there's mighty little safty even in our camps these days."said one of the boys, when the long list was completed."Already to day a christian man spy was killed within our very camps by enemies.What next?"

"Oh the time will soon pass when such spies will not dare come in ." said Mildred, who was preparing to saddle her horse."Anyhow it will soon be supper time for us officers.This is the day for each of you girl and boy scout officers not coming along with me to write your weakly weekly telegraph letters to your parents, you who have any and it is so pretty in the woods now that I am sure you will enjoy looking for while flowers.But if you do go look out for fires.You know forest fires are not far off from here.Look at that cloud of smoke.Well goodbye.Be back soon."

Time did pass quickly, as Mildred had said it would untill it was past supper time.Then Virginia herself one of the scouts officers began to wish for something more amusing than the quiet guessing games they had been playing on the outside, before it grew too dark.Some of the boyscout leaders had each picked up a book or a paper, and Joan herself after having her shoulder redressed had strolled off upstairs in search of a livlier occupation.In a few minutes she came down looking like a little uniformed princess in her new uniform, but this time she had a long bow and arrows slung over her shoulders.

"I am going down to the woods to practice shooting." she announced as she stopped to look in at the door.

"Oh wait a minute, not alone you ain't with that shoulder"said George Zimmermann, throwing down his book."I'm responsible for you.Let's all of us go down too.We willrig up too in our best."

"You can come on when you get ready." answered Joan."I'm going now because it is getting late but you'll find me near the spring when you come.Just yell."

The good boyscouts could not hope to rival Joans uniform customs but they had their best too.They had hoped however to not meet with any of the Glandelinians for to them out in the woods a n o wilder looking savages that ever uttered a warwhoop could unerve them more than a horde of the d ition yelling Glandelinian soldiery. With the cutting on of their uniforms the boys seemed to have dropped all recollection of anything else and acted like the little boys they were.

"We are going to shoot with your thin gs while Joan."shouted on e of the boys picking up the bow and arrows where she had laid them."If you don't mind we would like you to get down there behind that rock and ma e make a fire while we go out and see what game we can shoot."

Joan was surprised.

"You kill game with my arrows."she cried."Say any of you boys that can shoot an arrow I'd like to see him."

"I can"said Penrod Fred's brother almost snatching the bow out of her hands as she had regained them."

"Yes,"she said. "Well see if if you don't succeed in gettin g some game with my bow and arrow, why'll I'll kid you sir in a way you won't like.It's a real Indian made bow hard to work, and I can shoot better than any one as I have always proven.If you succeed I'll give those who do a kiss.So there.But if you fail, I'll kid you good see.Here's my arrows.But be careful and do not lose them."

"You better keep good your boast as she m ans it Penrod"said another of the boys."Sch she'll do it sure.But let's come along, or it will be night before we begin."

Matters went on smoothly and they were all doing their plays together as pleasantly as if they had found the happy hunting grounds in America.The short smoky evening waned fi fast and the shadows were growing deep when they reached the last part of the game.Not far from her but out of sight, was a little girl standing against a tree tied to it, by Glandelinians recently with her hands bound securely behind her back.They had intended to make short work of h r, and were scared away by the girl and boy scouts, which to them really were more dreaded than the christian soldiers.

"I guess we'll sit around now for a time and decide on how to make prepar ations for to morrow"said one of the girls."We could make a fire to light the woods up a big.A light would make things good."

"I should say it would."said another of the girlscouts lookin g around with a shiver as she seated herself on a log near Joan, waiting for the boy with her arrows to return.If there was no smoke in the sky they could have easily seenn have seen that the sun was low in the west, and very little of its light would have found its way into the woods where the children were laying.

"It makes i me just now think of the Vivian Girls "said Joan looking at several long streaks of lights far away."Do; Don't you remember how they did their best work.Aren't they pretty though.I loved them."

"Tell us about them while we are waiting for Penrod to return ."said Jane. "All right "said Joan, and she did.Just then as she was fin ishing a shout came ringing down hill.

"Oh George.Come here a minute quick."

"What do you want ?"Yelled George, in return.

"Come up here.Q i quick hury up.I've shot something with an arrow."

"What do you suppose it can be"exclaimed George scrambling to his feet. M ayte he killed some animal good for food in the camp.Come girls, come everybody."

The child who was tied to the tree in the woods heard every so und but as she was gagged she could not holler out for help.

"I wish some one would see me and untie me."she said in fright to her self.She struggled desperately to free herself but could not succeed.

"Oh I can't loosen it a bit"she gasped"and if they go away the Glandelinian soldiers will return."

In t y the meantim the girls and boys found Penrod on the back pro porch of a house pointing excitedly tward the ground.

"It's some wild dog that attacked me and I shot it through with an arrow" he said."Come and and have a look at it and see what it is."

It was harder work than the boys thought it was to guess the identy of the animal and they were so intent on their work of looking it over they did not realize how quickly the minutes were passin g.

"Isn't it a monster of a dog.!"exclaimed George when a light revealed it at last."It's lot bigger and finer in shape than any wolf.Oh isn't it a big one too."

"I'll tell you what."said one of the boys dancing up and down innhis excitement untill he looked like a ridiculious little clown ."Let's skin the wolf.We can make use of the skin for a floor matting."

"Can't now"said Penrod"it's t dark now there in the woods by this time. So there's nothing left now but the reflection through the smoke where the sun has gone down.I' m afraid its even too dark even for us up here on the hill, b but we can try."

"Surely even if they do return Gertrude or her fellow scouts won't mind waiting long enough for us t to it."said one of the others."Anyhow we will not be able to do anyt i anything like this for a long time as the army may advance to morrow Gertrude will soon be returning."

The boys being good scouts had had some great practice before in skinning animals but this required some work in the gathering darkness and they did not finish it untill it was dusk even on the porch where they stood and in the woods below a deep twilight had fallen.

Every minu e that had sped by so rapidly for the girl and boy scouts seemed an age to the captive little girl tied to thetree.she feared now the return of her would be murderers since they were gone, and her arms ached from the tr strain of their unusual position.Swarms of gnats also flew about stinging her face, and mosquitoes buzzed teasingly around her ears.she sure was unable to move a finger to drive them away.When the boy and girlscouts had been gone for what did fifteen or twenty minutes she thought they would be away and never return.At the end of half an hour though no glandelinians did return she was wild with impatience to get loose and run away from the woods, but hoping the scouts might return to look for something any minute she therefore showed no signs of her fear ad discomfort. She decided that she would be as heroic as the bravest person ever tortured by the cruel Glandelinians. As long as it was daylight or what should be light despi e the smoke in the sky she kept up her courage but presently it began to grow dark under the great pine trees. A frog or a few of them down in a creek near by set up a dismal croaking. What if the scouts should never come back.Then no one would come and set her free, and she would have to stay in the lonely woods all by herself untill the Glandelinians took the c u courage to come back and as she was tied to the t e tree with her hands behind her back she was helpless.She s ruggled to work out the gag by her tongue, and as good luck would have it she finally succeeded and began calling for aid but only an echoe came back to her----a far away echoe that mocked her with its teasing cry of "Help.Help" Call after call went ringing ringing, through the wooods, but no body answered. Nobody answered,and the scouts were at that moment so absorbed in their work of skinning the wolf that if they did hear it, they at first paid no attention.There was a rustling through the leaves behind her as of a snake gliding around the tree. she was at afraid of snakes, but she shrieked and turned cold at the thought the sound might be from the Glandelinians returning, h while she waspwerless to get away.Every time a twig snapped or there was a fluttering in the bushes she strained her eyes to see if the horrible thing she imagined might be the Glandelinians again coming for her.Then the horror of That if the fire would come into these woods.she had full thoughts that all kinds of Glandelinians might be lurkin g about, and all the terrible stories she had ever heard of the days of past horrible massacres of little children came back to haunt the w oods with a nameless dread.And the Glandelinians who had fled at the approach of the dangerous christian child scouts had intended to torture her too.She knew she was standing on the real "Calverinian Kentucky" worse than at that State the Indians meant when they gave the state State its name."Calverinia too was a more dark and bloody ground, then Kentucky and yet she was not bound to a tree in Calverinia but in northern Angelinia yet she was horrified by beliving she heard som cry a far off-

"Angelinia too a Dark and Bloody war ground.Angelinia State a dark and bloody ground, a seathing hell." Something even seemed to say that just behind her, then it seemed as if the very trees took it up and the leaves whispered"Sh----sh- --sh----sh.Dangerous and horrible Ground.Bloody with massacre and battles.Flood.Forest fire coming here.Sh---sh."

At that with seeing a big glare far off in the sky, and noticing a south east wind was blowing a roaring gale in thetrees now she was so frighten ed that she began calling again, but the sound of her own voice startled her."Oh they are not coming"she thought"they have gone away"and there was a miserable echo in her throat, that seemed swelling bigger and bigger."I'll have to stay here in the woods, and be murdered, or burned here.Oh Mamma. Mamma." she moaned"I am so scared."If you could only come back and get your pooor l ittle girl."

Up to this time she had bravely fought back the tears, but just then a screech owl flapped down from a branch above h r with such a dismal hooting

that she gave a nervous start and a fearful cry of terror.

"Oh that frightened me, so.I thought it was the yell of the Glandelin lans" she sobbed."I don't believe I can stand it to be caught here all night alone with so so many horrible dangers everywhere.And that red light is getting brighter.And it seems as if no one cares now.Nobody, but papa and ma am and they are so far away, e cept except papa who is in the army.Maybe I'll n ever see them any more."At that the tears rolled down her face and she could not move a hand to even wipe them away.To be so little andmiserable and so forsaken so worn out wit with waiting and so helpless among all those un n unknown and yet real true horrors that these dark woods might hold was worse torture to the unfortunate child than any bodily pain or the tortures of the Glandelinians could have inflicted upon her.It was just as her last bit of courage ozzed away, and after she had at last given a louder scream of fright and she began to cry, that the wind brought the sound suddenly and very distinctly distinctly to the child scouts who had only half finished skinning the wolf.

"What was that"gasped Dolores looking sudenly as pale as a ghost."

"It must be as dark as a pocket in the woods by this time"exclaimed Jean.

"You what do you supposewas that cry."?

They listened but heard nothing more. Yet that did not make them feel or think the sound was false.

""Fred get ow weapons"said Jean."Well go into the woods ad investigate. Get my big knife on the table too.I'll get something in the dining room that will do."

The boy was rushing out again with a carving knife in his hand when he came face to face with Gertrude Angeline and Angeline „ichee.The boys had been so interested in skinning the wolf that they had not heard the return or the sound of fotesteps coming up the front veranda.George the aide-decamp was lighting the hall lamps as the girlscout leaders came inGertrude gave a gasp of astonishment and sank down in the nearest chair as Fred came dashing into the bright lamplight shouting to her"We hard a cry of distress in the woods.Sounded like a little girl or some one in trouble.

"A cry in the woods!"gasped Gertrude. The boy gave an excited explanation but were stopped by Angeline Richee's question"Where is Jean.?"

"She'soutside"answered Penrod."We heard a cry in the woods, and we are just starting down there to investigate."

But Angeline Richee wanted no more or waited to hear no more.

"The poor little thing."she exclaimed."I'll bet some one is thdout there alone alone in the dark woods.How could anyone be so cruel.?It's enough to frighten her into spasms."

"I' awfully sory too."Miss Richee"we'll find her if it is so.We'll yell and call, and she'll hear us----"but Angeline richee was already out of hearing.Out of the door she ran, through the grasses and the stubble in the field beyond regardless of her dainy uniform skirt or her new shoes.

Dolores, ad the others of course dashed on after her ran on ahead, and kept calling, and were relieved to hear an answering cry of help me please and just as they came into sight of the tree before Angeline richee had climbed the fence into the wood land, the boys and girls saw ten Glandelinians creeping tward the tree. "Fire quick"whispered Dolores, to Jean, and suddenly her pistol blazed again and again, and six of the glandelinians dropped, while the rest started to run.They' did not get far, as the others fired and brought them all down with shrieks of pain and fright. The poor child was not crying when the boys were the fist to reach her.She remembered she had once called her little brother names because she caught him crying over something that seemed to her a mere nothing, and she did not intend to give these boyscouts a chance to see her for fear they might look upon her as a coward.She was glad too that was it was too dark for them to notice her tear spollon eyes.

"Whew it's dark down here."said Fred."Were you frightened little girl?" he asked as he helped Penrod cut the cords that bound her.But the poor child could make no reply to his questions.Between them she walked on in dignified silence too deeply hurt by her experience, too full of a sense of the wrong the Glandelinians had done her to trust herself to speak without crying, and she intended to be game to the last. Soon there was the same rustling sound again, and the girls and boys suddenly halted behind trees pulling the frightened girl behind one too.They waited but as no other sound was heard, they stole off from tree to tree.Sometimes when there was a sound, they blazed awaywith their pistols in that direction but no result.Finally they came to the acamp and Gertrudes headquarters, and whenthe child was brought to Angeline Richee and suddenly found herself folded safe in her arms with pitying kisses and comforting caresses she clung to her new found friend, sobbing as if her heart would break.

"Oh it was awful so awful." was all she could say, but she repeated it again and again untill Gertrude who had never seen a child so excited before was alarmed and took her into possession.The boys who had run on ahead to the house again beford before the child gave way to her feelings was inclinig inclined to look upon it all as somethin g beyond measure for they had an idea how she must have suffered. When Gertrude came out of the room a little later the boys felt queer when she told them told them the fright had given the child a nervous chill and that she had cried herself to sleep.

"I didn't think, didn't believe Glandelinians would be mean enough to do it." said Fred in a voice as if he had been the one who had left her there."We just forgot and I am mighty sory truly I am Miss Gertrude.We were of Foreign birth, Miss but afterwards we are more heart and soul in your cause now than we were ever before.I am afraid they were going to murder her."

"You did not hear much about Glandelinians"said Gertrude"But if I were either of you boys I wouldn't wear my best uniform for supper to night. You might be needed to help us patrol those woods.You were the protector of a distressed little mad maida maidion as the old knights would have said-- and not only she has the Glandelinians ever done a serious wrong, but to all of us---a more serious one than we can say I'm afraid- -as as we thought that wrog wrong ought to be made right as far as possible we have made ourselves worthy to wear the badge of girl and boyscouts."

"W„'ll go and see her right now."Said Penrod,

"No she is asleep now, and I do not want her to bedisturbed.Besides a mere visit to her would not be enough.We got to make some kind of an atonement. The first thing I've done was sent a large umbers of soldiers tuscour that woods and capture or shoot any prowlers found there.The first thing I want you boys to do to night after our supper is to get some turpentine and paint.Where do you think you can get any boys?"

"What do you want us to do it or do with it?"asked the boys.

"Disguise yourself and go out into those woods and patrol a little.But you'd look the right part if you put a little paint on yourselves to luk like some sort of savages."

"Where can I get the paint?"

"You canlean it out of my paint box"said Gertrude."In case of need I don't care.But you need only a little but if it soaks in fast you can use two tubes of it."

"I could use more than that"confessed Fred looking at her with his big honest eyes."But how can I p y pay you for the use of it?"

"You do not need to pay anything.You are doing this as a service to your country.."

A few minutes later no wilder lookinglittle "savages ever uttered a warwjoop warwhoop than the two which presently dashed into Gertrudes pr sence. Penrod had to disguise himself at her suggestion had ripd some variegated fringe from a table cloth to pin down the sides of his leather leggings.He had taken a roman blanket from Gertrudes couch to pin around his shoulder, and emptied several of her tubes to streak his face with hedious stripes and doubs.A row of feathers from the dust brush was fashened around his forehead by a broad band and a hatchet from the woodshed provided himwith the strange weapon she had directed him to use. Fred had no time to arrange feathers.He had taken off his flannels in order to put on an old stripped bathing suit which he had found in the attic and stored away intending to use it for his disguise.It had no sleeves and the short trousers had shrunk untill they did not half way reach his knees.Its red and white stripes had faded and the colol color had ran untill the whole was like a din gy crushed str straw berry shades.As Penrod had emptied all the tubes of red paint in Gertrudes box, Fred had to be content with som other color.He choose the different shades of green, squeezing the paint out on his plump little legs and arms and rubbing it around with his forefinger untill he was encircled with as as many stripe as a zebra.Although the day was not so warm now and there was a southeast wind blowing the sudd n sudden change fromhis customary uniform to nothing but thw airy bathing suit and "warpi paint made him feel a trifle chilly, so he completed his custom by putting on a par of heavy bedroom slippers edged with dark fur.with the dropping of their uniform the boys seemed to have dropped all recollections of their professed boyscouthood on and for a moment pretended to be the little savages they looked to be.

At the sight of them Gertrude turned away to hide a smile.The earnest little faces above the stripped bodies were so very comical.Picking up several of the empty tubes that had been squeesed quite flat she red the labels.

"Rose madder and carmine." she said solemnly"It would have been better if you had used yellows."

The scouring of the wods however brought no good results and that night when the boyscouts came down to dinner they were themselves again, though it had been a work of time to scrub off the paint and then it took almost as long to get rid of the turpentine so that supper was ready long before they had been back in their uniforms.

"I can't get over that poor little girl we rescued to night"Fred complained to Penrod at bedtime, but did did not mention it to anyone else that night. He sat on the side of his cot a moment or two before undressing, with one foot across his knee staring thoughtfully at the lighted candle.Presently with one shoe in his hand and the other half unlaced he hooped over to his trunk and opened it, taking out two pictures and looking at first one picture picture and then another.He had however twenty different photographs of his parents, such th taking in uniform of his father and of those of his mother in day time dress such in simple street custom and each so beautiful that it would have been heard to decide which one had the greatest charm.

"I sure wish maman mamma were here to night."said Fred to himself softly with a little quiver in of his lip."Seems like I've been gone from here her always.Darn, damn this war and Glandelinia.I wish she was in---"he checked himself and pickedup a large Abbiemanian Locket of beaten gold that lay open in the trunk.It held two beautiful andmost exquisitive painted miniatures on gold and every.One was the same sweet face that looked out at him from each of the photographs, the other was his fathers.It showed a handsome young officer in AngelinianUniform with strong clean shaven face,with eyes like Freds and the same lordly poise of the fine head that Penrod had.

"Goodnight, pappa, and good night mother."whispered Fred, touching his lips hastily to each picture while Penrods back was turned.There were tears in his eyes.Somehow to night he was miserably homesick.

That hour when they were preparing for bed a report had come in that the little girl as a result of her fright was burning with fever. That following morning too a as the result of her fright she was too ill to get up and Fred himself at Gertrudes look, sent for a doctor.

"Must versus we have rescued have turnedout so perfectly well,and seemed to have such strong constitutions that I cannot allow myself to believe this will be anything serious."said Angeline Richee."Of course she's so much worse since last night that Mary Glorinia will be needed to nurse her.And we will do our best to atone for what she has suffered from those dirty Glandelinians and well be it that for what glandelinians do to children, we scouts have never made up our minds to give any quarter.I believe now the poor little thing is too ill to remember anything about her horrible experience last night,she does not know any of us, and she only tossed restlessly about, talking wildly of things we cannot understand.It is the first time any one we have rescued has ever become ill from her or their fright and experience, and we will need some one to watch her for it seems she's burning with fever,and growing more white and thin.I'm afraid she would never get any better."

The others did notput that fear into words, but little by little it had crept from heart to heart like a wintry fog untill the whole house felt its chill, and because of that one child, the army was not to march that day.

The strange forest sounds, and smoke odors and all other sounds and smells came rushing in at every window from the dreary country outside, but it might as well might as well have been midwinter. No one paid any heed while that little life threatened to hang in the balances.The aidedecamps and the boys went through the house on tip toe.Penrod and Dolores and others haunted the halls todiscover fromthe grave faces of the soldiers and the other girl and boyscouts what they were afraid to ask and Gertrude Angeline was kept busy answering the inquiries of all others.Scarcely a minute nor an hour had passed that someone did not com to ask about the little girl that had been rescued ,to leave flowers or to offer kindly services.Everybody loved the girlscouts and their winning manner had made them a host of friends.

Even during that night there had not been any lack of attention.Angeline Richee and Gertrude Angeline, Dolores and others had watched every breath, every pulse beat, and a dozen times in the night Penrod or even Jean had stolen to the door to look anxiously at the wan little face on the pillow.

"It sure is so strange "Said Gertrude to Mary that night."she keeps talking about being tied to that tree and that the Glandelinians are going to murder her. I suppose she has visions of that in her derl delirium."

Mary however shook her head, for she didnot understand. Just then Gertrude heard her name called softly-"Gertrude"And Schofield Penrod beckoned her to com out into the hall."I want to show you something in Angeline" room."he said leading her down the hall to Richees apartment. On each side of the low writing desk stood a large photograph which had been found in the

possession of the little girl, the two boys had rescued from the trees.One was a picture of a little boy in a suit of mail, the other of the little girl herself in a custom of jewel embroidered velvet like a little princess.

"Oh Penrod how beautiful." she exclaimed, as she swept the room and knelt down before the desk to get a better view.Leaning her arms on the desk she looked into the little girls face with hungry eyes.

"Isn't she lovely!"she repeated."OH I'm afraid she'll never look like that again.I know it.I know it"she sobbed, remembering how white was the little face on the pillow that she had just left.Penrod bent over her his own handsome face nowwhat white and haggard.He looked ill himself from that nights constant watching and anxiety.

"I'd give everything in the world that I own."Everything he "he groaned. "I'd do anything, sacrifice anything to see her well and sturdy as she looks there.Those Glandelin ians are sure dreadful.And I wonder who her parents are and where are they.I suppose those blood thirsty scoundrels had stolen her to bring her out there and murder her."

Then suddenly he caught up the picture.What is this written on the back of the picture?" h he asked."It is in English and no doubt in the girls own handwritin ge Gertrude you can read a little English.Tell me wh what it says.what does it mean ?" and he handed the card to her.She looked at the writing and then first reading it in English to herself she said"It's the Prayer Oh Mary Conclevied without Sin Pray for Calverinia who has all recourse for Thy Protection from Thy Foe as well as hers."

"What does that prayer mean Gertrude?"he asked turning to Angeline Richee who was standing by an open window."It's written also in the back of the little girls brothers picture too."

"That is hard to tell unless it's a prayer asking the Blessed Mother to help the christian armies drive the foe out.This also we fought in her possession."She took a small little pin and reaching over dropped it in to Penrods hand.It was a Tiny di dis diamond pin.

"Why all us boy and girlscouts wears one like it"He said astonished. "Something is queer here.This little girl will need us to stand by her.Last night when Jack who is still in his wheelchair you know whelled in to me and said; Mis chee this wearing this white boyscout flower emblem of a blameless brave life isn't as easy as its cracked up to be under these depressing circumstances but having this little pin helps me a lot to bear the pain of my injuries. I just put my hand on that like the real soldiers do on their dagger hilts and repeat my motto.It will be easier when I can walk around again. Since I've known jean as my little heroine, and heard her tell about the hard times the child slaves have it seems to me theres an awful lot of wrong in this country for our country to set right.Some nights I can hardly go to sleep thinking about it, and wishing I were grow grown up so that I could begin to do my part.I wish my pepa could be here now.He'd make a splendid soldier, he is so big, good and handsome.I don't suppose any man was any better or braver than my father is."

Acteur splashed down from Jeans eyes as she listened and fallin g on the tiny white flower as it lay in Penrods hand glistened beside the dew drop centre like another diamond.

"Oh Penrod"she exclaimed, in a heart broken way.Something very like a sob shook the boys shoulders, ad turning abruptly he strode out of the room.Down in the dim green library, where the blinds had been drawn to keep it cool he threw himself into a chair beside a small round table .Propping the little girls picture up in front of him against a pile of books, he leaned forward gazing at it earnestly.He had never realized before how much he loved the company of the little girl rescued by the two boys who now hour by hour seemed on the point of death from her fright.The pictured face looked full into him as if it would speak.It wore a sweet trustful expression and the same childish purity other good little girls have.All that gentle birth, school and boyscout school breeding, experience, and military affairs could give a boy were Penrods Schofield penrods, and yet measuring himself by the standard of the others he felt something in his whole force sadly lacking.He had given liberally to see the glandelinians worsted, and the hated the grevious wrong and sorrow caused throughout the country by the Glandelin ians.Never before in his heart was there such a bitterness against them now.Penrod had often troubled himself to know the war raged in the country outside the powerful christian armies, and how many who had fortunes laid upfor them by hard earned savings had seen all swept away in the twinkling of an eye.Penrod had always been troubled by all the horrors he had seen, as he now paced restlessly up and down the room.He was not thinking now about the military things that usually occupied him, his military duties, his own army at Viviens

, or other things.He was not planning anything new according to military intentions he was wondering what he could do to be worthy more of the exalted regard in which he was held by all his followers and the generals and even the vivian girls in his stead.What wrong should he not right even to prove himself really as noble as they all knew him.He was their ideal of all that was generous brave and manly and yet--

"What have I tried to do or have done, to prevent this,what happened to this little girl." he asked himself"to make them all think more of my turlent.If I were to be taken out of this world by this war I would be leaving it exactly as I found it to day.Who could point to my grave and say,"children are safer, times for scouts are better,because this one boyscout general willed to show the glandelinians his own might andpower as far as the might of one strong little life can reach.But they will only say that of Penrod and his brother Fred---and if that little girl lives---ah if she lives."

An hour later the door opened, and Jean came in softly."The little girl is asking for the boys who rescued her Penrod"she said with a surprised glance into her friends haggard face.Then she came nearer, and slipped her hand into the boys strong fingers, and together they went up the stairs to see the sick child.

"Did you want to see your heroes little girl?"

The little golden haired head did not turn on the pillow.The languid eyes opened half with a frightened start, but onseeing his uniform there was recognition in them now, andone little hand was raised to lay itself lovingly against the boyscouts cheek.

"What is it little girl?"

The weak little voice tried to answer but the words came only in gasps."My rescuers know---about my being tied to----tree---keep me from being captured again.Please let me be safe , boyscout----do that for me please!"

"What is it little girl?"asked Penrod bending over her."I do not exactly understand."But you can have everything you want my little girl.Anything.I'll do whatever you ask."

"My rescuers knows"was the answer.Then the little girls voice seemed somewhat stronger for an instant and a faint child smile touched the childs lips."I will pray for them.They saved me from a cruel death."

"Is t this your's ?"asked Penrod showing the "white flower with the diamond in the centre.!"

"she only nodded her head, and yet a pleased expression flitted over the childs face as she saw where it had been resting on Penrods coat lapel and when it was fastened in the front of her little embroidered nightshirt her hand closed over the pin as if it were something very precious and she were afraid of losing it again.

"P Oh Mary Consivedd without sin pray for us who have recourse to Thee" they heard her whisper, and then the little child slept.It had been thirteen hours since she had come to again hours when the faintest noise had not been that night allowed in the house, when the soldiers had been placed on guard, and others stationed at the front gate that no one might drive or ride up the company street.The girlscouts outside scarcely dared draw a deep breath till this morning she heard the doctor coming down the stairs, just before daylight.Then she knew by his face seen in the camp fire that prayers and skill skill and tender nursing had not been in vain, and that the little child who had been rescued would live.So much can happen even in one night.An hour w later when the little girl grew stronger she was propped up in bed, and then general Arenburg came in to see Gertrude on something important.The whole army indeed had rejoiced when all the girls and boys had come ashore the morning before from the raft.Military carriages had been rolled in and out of the great entrance gate all day long, for Gertrude Angeline and her followers had alwayd been favorites with every one, and they had given a warm welcome to her and her gallent leaders, and regretted heartily that she had suffered such awful losses in her adventured on the raft.The girlscouts who had not been with her but remained in the army followed Gertrude around like a loving shadow and all had been so interested in the wonderful stories they told of their experiences on the raft that they never noticed how much other things were going on .Sometime they had been busy always. When Gertrude saw the child was all right she consulted her uncle, and it was decided to make an advance to support Vivianie on the morrow, for recently Arenburgs army had been rapidly growing and it was hoped Myletze would be checked.General Arenburg had never been more surprised than he was when Gertrude unfolded hers and the plans of her leaders to him.It did not seem possible that these good children could have thought of it all and arranged every detail without the help of some older head.

"I can easily think of many things."said Gertrude in explanation .."first Angeline richee said how lovely it would have been if we had enough soldiers under some very good fighting general to have helped her father general Vivienia keep Heidi Myletze at bay, where other christian armies could have a fair chance to go against Myletze from elsewhere.You have an immense army here, your army isout of doors all the time, is fresh and strong from having not been engaged often.Then we said it would be better if we could chose our own battle ground and have or find some way to force Isner Myletze to attack us, and met disaster.We talked about it every evening on the raft before we went to bed and keptputting a littlemore, and alittlemore t it untill it was as real to us as if we truly had seen such a god successful battle ensuing.There are immense bodies of cavarly to your army Uncle and we have lots of provisions.We told a many ofour leaders, and Virginia B Virginia, Dolores, Angeline Jenin s Jennings her sisters thought ofva lot of more things.Dolores said we ought to call our experience a "fair chance because if we go through the plan it would mean for Angelines father and his generals a good relief from Myletzes continual hammering blows,and too it was Viginia who first thought of this plan ,she said that your army though sometimes so long inactive is alr always the biggest, and that she knew you would be glad to do it just for the sake of your country's cause.Virginia said if we could do all that and keep Myletze from advancing too close to Angelinia Agathia it would be servin g our Country just as much as any of the other generals are doing,and the country depends more on you Uncle than anyone else.Virginia is a crack about being a christian spy and she has done a lot for us too and knows the lay of any Glandelinian army within sight. You ought to hear her talk about it.And Minnie Jeans sister said that four ours country sake "an ou ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, "and that to carry through such a plan would be a deed worthy od any true soldier of Christ....."

"How are you expecting to bring this wonderful thing to p ass!"asked her uncle as Gertrude stopped to take breath."Concerning this flood y do you expct to wave a wand and see ou r army on the other side as if it jumped across."

"Of course not Uncle."said Gertrude a little provoked by her uncles teasing smile."We were going to ask you to carry the plan through by putting pontoon bridges across the narrowest part of the flood.Besides we will do lots of scouting in the meanwhile.We won't need to do anything else while the pontoons are in con struction for we can earn plenty of credit for ourselves then, and still more gain the confidence of the Princesses, and it seems too bad to have the army laying idle here doing nobody any good, when we need it to act to right this wrong ofour Countrys.Look at this flood.There is no evidence of course, no clues to discover, nor of the explosions at Abbieann, but I positively know Glandelinia is at the bottom of all this and so does all in the Beautiufl Heaven too."

"But this army had not been lying idle"Answered General Aronburg." It has been advancing in such a way that it is earning you more confidence every day and more than that the army is always left in trust for you, so that no one has any say over it through the orders of Violet, and her sisters but you. I a m at your command, but how in the world can I pontoon an army across this flood.where's the lumber to make the bridges, and where can the boats be."!

"Oh Uncle"cried Gertrude, bitterly disappointed.She had hard work to keep back the tears for a moment, then a happy thought made her face brighten'"Angeline Richee is a good guide, and she cl could lead the army through a region and get on Myletze without crossing the flood.You know you promished us anything we would want, without even anything impossible and that is waht we are asking for.Otherwise we will hear it said in the papers before long"Extra.Angelinia's downfall.The enemy won the war.Angelinia Agathia is captured by the samy.Extra."You would not like that would you.Yet without your interference I can prove that it'll happen before this month is out.Ad An d this is the I7th already."""""

General Aronburg put his arm around the earnest little girlscout, and drew her to his knee smiling down upon or into the upturned face that waited eagerly for his answer.

"I only asked that to hear what you would say my little brave N eice"Was the answer."You need have noworry about how we'll get there.I'll keep my promise to you all, and we shall get in the way of Myletze some way if the army had to swim or wade to do it.I'm not a knight of course, nor am il any such man as Napoleon or Alexander the Great, but I'm proud to be the Uncle of c such valiant little champions of the Princesses.I was waiting purposely Gertrude for them, as Evans telegraphed he could only t get to me first before he can come to emperoer Vivians army.Then before they go you can have Jack Saunders the cowardly boyscout tried.Please God and His Blessed Mother you'll

not be alone in your battles after this to right the Countrys wrongs.Your losses on the raft, and the tragedis has inspired me to take it out on the enemy and I will by giving Mylotze a bad check and destroy him if I can.I'll be your faithful"squire" or as we would say in these days" a sort of silent partner" in the enterprise.I'll wait another day first if necessary as I'll take time to make the move, and to get the trees to make the bridging."

"What shall we do first."

"Let's hold a counsel"suggested Jean...."

"How is your shoulderlittle Miracle girl."asked General Aronburg.

"It sure pina but I do not complain"she said bravely."This is not the only time I'v ive been wounded.Violet has a long list of the injuries and narrow escapes I've had."

The counsel was held right after breakfast.They held it in general Aronburgs headquarters which had been a county court house which had a large piece ofproperty and generals Malcolm and Keith Mac-Intyre were to conduct the construction, they being the chief engineer generals.After some long distanced scouting they came to where the flood did narrow considerably near a place adjoining a place called the Locusts belonging to old Colonel LLoyd on which stood a fine old homestead missed fortunately by the flood and which had been vacant since the break of the war.The counil had lasted an hour, and soon afterwards all the army engineers were set to work first to sound the depths of the flood there, and to use logs, and old army wagons and what boats might be found.The others of course knew nothing of what was going on, and wondered at the hasty preparations of the army to get ready for the march and were still more surprised at the long conversations which took place between the highest generals.It was general Canner who found some means to even form the pontoons by means of the old wagons.He recommended also a countryman of great scientific skill who had been an construction engineer on all sorts of bridges.He was a gentle great old soul who loved all children and understood them.-verything throwed under his management and he had no patience with l aziness or waste.Any bunch of men under him would be able to make progress in the work when the time came for it, but the general was notified it would take at least two days to construct it saftly.

Dolores and Jean helped choose the spot best to laid the starting point but the girlscout lieutenant Virginia Dudly felt that the pleasure of the plan was all hers for she was taken to every spot of convience to show what was best to be done, and allowed a voice in everything.She laughed to think what a surprise lay in store for Mr Heidi." several trips were nessessary before the first section of the pontoon was complete, and meanwhile all scouts were out tc prevent any surprise in case Glandelinians might start something if any troops were in the neighborhood. It was indeed the " Fairchance"that the girlscouts and their leaders had planned so long, hoping for its best, results.Nothing whatever had been forgotten .This morning though it seemed and was somewhat surprising Jack ganders was able to walk downstairs for the first time desregarding the thoughts and verdicts of the doctor that he might not be able to walk for weeks,, and wek weeks.Gertrude had gone out scouting taking Jean with her because Jean was determined on nothing else despite Gertrudes protest about her wounded shoulder.They had hopes of meeting with Jack Evans and the escort with him bringing Violet, and her sisters, and the 10,000 rescued child slaves as he had telegraphed to Evans.It was however several days ago that he had recieved the telegram.However Gertrude returned without them, and Dolores met them at the edge of the camp and there were three boys with the two girls when they returned three boys dressed in the uniform of the Glandelinian boyscouts of Manleys command.Dolores eyed the new comers with curiousity and she asked Gertrude;

"I thought we gave no quarter, and took no prisoners no matter what Glandelinians they were.!?.?.!?.!"

"They are not prisoners but christian boy scouts from some other part of our west army and they joined us on their return." explained Jean."They have learned a lots believe me.Last night before returning to camp they had slept in a barn dangerously close to the flood.With the flood rising again we did not wish them to proceed on their adventure although we didn't have much coaxing, and we also didn't relish the idea of their being too far out side the lines.Would you believe it the youngest one never thought Mylotzes army was so near as it is, never thought so untill he discovered it yesterday near Elenor Creek.He had never let the enemy out of his sight not even at the risk of exposure, and ever remaining where the enemy could have seen him.These boys were on foot and it was too far for them to walk back alone, and as other horses and so forth werecut of the question we let them ride on behind."

"Mylotzes army so close and without usknowing it."!Said polores with a thrill of horror in her voice that a dager danger could be lurking so near."Oh Gertrude how much more time willwe have then to put ourplans into effect.We are in danger and did not know it.Did he lisk Vivianie I wonder."

"No"said one of the boys."After the battle just past he slipped off in the dark got up with the rest of the big new army coming tobhimand slipped one over on Vivianie and even done so much damage that Vivianie cannot progress an hour a day in persuit."

They rode directly to general Aronburgs headquarters.It was late in the morning and general Aronburgs Aide-decamp or orderly was sitting on the front porch talking with some of the girlscouts.The same customary hot breeze was blowing from the southeast stirring the white window curtains behind himwith soft flutterings.A colored cook of the general's in the kitchen was singing as he moved around preparing breakfast and his voice floated cheerily around the corner of the house as she was singing the Christmas Hymn out of season"Still Night Holy night." A cow lookingmuch like a Jersey lowed at the pasture bars, and from away over the in the woodland came the cooing of a dove.

On hearing of the news general Aronburg looked from the count countenances of the gray clad boys to Gertrudes noble face."

"Yourplan after all is a doubtful experiment."he said."It may never ammount to anything, but at least the poj pontoons shall continue to progress and at least we shall try to take the chance to see what can be done."

And then there swept across his heart, with a warm generous rush the impulse to do as much for other communities in peril from the enemy.He had seen much misery caused by the flood during even his shortest marches.The misery of the refugees, haunted him night and day, and he felt sure it was the foe who was guilty.Gertrude took Jean over to where the pontoons were still in progress.There were six of the bridges being constructed now two for the artillery to pass across and wagons.

"I've no doubt but there'll be some excitement coming soon."she said to one of the chief constructing engineers with her unusual smile."

"Yes,"he answered,"but be cautious girl,when you once let a little water trickle through the dikes you know the whole sea is apt to come pouring in."

"Happy the heart that sees Mylotze swept away by our own hide tides in purple color."said Jean."The country will be left richer by such strong purple floods."

Th at morning as the army was to get ready every one who were able were invited to come la to thw flg flag raising.The great silk flag was the gift of polores, and general Aronburg made the presentation speech.He wore his best uniform in honour of the occassion.This was a part of what he said;

"This will be a great memorial day for all us us, and throughout this wide spread land of ours over every mound that marks a soldiers dust inhonor of the return froma long and dangerous adventure my beautiful and brave niece Gertrude Angeline as she calls herself, but who really is Angelinia Ann Aronburg.Over her own heroic dead who perished in the bloody and fatal adventure down the flood a grateful country and army wreaths the red of her roses, the white of herlillies and the blue of her forgetmenots repeating even in the sweet syllables of the flowers the symbol of her patroitism the red yellow andpurp purple of her war stained banner which my Neice defended more nobly than even the armies.My freinds so far I have followed the flag into more than one battle, though it is true other generals have fought more often than I have.I have seen countless thousands of men charge after it through blinding smoke and hail of bullets that killed and wounded them in numbers as thick as rain falling in a storm, and I have seen immense droves of men die for it.No one feels more deeply than I what a glorious thing it is to die forcmes country, when it is at stake with such a wicked destructive foe as Glandelinia but I want to say to these little boy and girlscouts here assembled in all their regiments, and their officers do who are all lookingup at this great flag fluttering over us that it is not half so noble half so brave, as to live for it in horror, sorrow suffering and dreadful experiences as my neice and all her followers have done to have given themselves in untiring every day service beyond comparison to their countrys good,and made themselves a terror to the enemy.To let Glandelinia get awaywith this what has happened tm to my Neices forces on the raft, I would rather say then I am a traitor to my country, to My God and an unfaithful child of Mary.I would rather have that said of me that I did that then if I let such things go, and I would not be a general then.I have her records here she stat started out with 10,500 boys girls, and men, of ocuse mostly men.On the raft when she returned to me she had only a hundred child scouts and not only that but far less than that of the men, and one sower cowardly boyscout Jack Saunders who will be turned over to the Princesses.Therefse

may the girl and boyscouts of my army, and all other christian armies go on, gallently throughout the land, carrying their mottos with them, untill the last wrong is righted, untill Glandelinia is is beaten and humble and trailed in her own bloody dust, and wherever the flag floats every brave scout may be found wherever anyone breaths beneath it. And may these emblems of Our Religious good old Catholic Nation Abbiennia as they rise and fall on the winds of this o war torn n nation whisper continuously that motto untill its lessons of truth andpurity and unselfish service have been blazoned on the hearts of every boy and girlscout who calls this home. May it help to to make Glandelinia atone for these disasters which we all know she is guilty off, though there is no proof and to make Gertrude a true girl knight in her Countrys cause and to e help her carry on the work for the Princesses."

There was a bandplaying after that, and then ' general Hanconia Heid made a speech, and Angeline Riches and others gathered roses out of the garden near by so that every boy and girl scout could wear one. A little later they had breakfast on the big lawn in front of the generals Headquarters pincic fashion. With the little rescued girl softly covered up in a hammock the girlscout leadsers lingered on theporch long after breas breakfast was over. Every general were planning too and all the good that grew out of that quiet morning talk could never be known untill the day came when the awful battle resulting in Gertrudes plans made Myletze realize General Aronburgs was his match.

It has been such a beautiful morning in spite of the smoky skies "said Dolores to Virginia leaning her head happily against her shoulder. Then she started up suddenly remembering something! "Oh Virginia she cried" We forgot to end the ceremony with the bugle call. I'll run and get my bugle and play taps. All us scouts know that you know."

A few minutes later the silvery notes went floating out on the warm morning air, through all the distant valley, over the mounds in the fields and where even the far distant enemy was encamped. Over the wods and fields they floated, suddenly bringing all soldiers within hearing into l n line with salutes untill the sounds reached the flag that kept its fluttering vigil over the army. Jack who was back in bed sat up to listen. Many a reveille would sound before his full awakening to all that all the girl scouts had madepossible for him but the sweet dim dream of the future that stole into his grateful little heart was an earnest of what was in store for him and Jean for their unusual heroism of defending one another. When he rescued Jean, when Jack Saunders deserted her, and when she rescued him in the shell swept fields near Sanitary Creek. Then though it was o morning the bugle call falling through the air like a benediction, closed the happy morning, with its peaceful" "Good ' morning."

Fighting girl and boyscouts. Even boy and girlscouts are not exempt fromskirmishing. Something un usual St Andr w Andrew mountain

"Well Penrod I'm sure we don't know where we are now." said Gertrude. "Our army soon is supposed to be on the march to repel Myletzes movems ts which had been attempted against general vivianis."

"Well Gertrude" I'm sure I don't recollect myself." replind Penrod. "If we was down near Evangeline St Claire I'd reckon I would not be surprised. Too bad we didn't take our girlscout guide Miss niches with us."

"Well we must findout very soon where we are if it is forom our own good. added Gertrude as she reined in her horse at a point where three roads branched off one to the northwest, the other to the southeast, and the third direct northeast.

"There isn't any houses any where about here Gertrude, and look we are close to the meanced forest."

"Well I don't want to lose my way now, for with these conditions flood and fire, and enemy patrols and what not I have nobtime to spare.

"There is some one coming up behind us, Gertrude" said Penrod, whose quick ears first heard the sound of oncoming horses approaching in the direction from which they had just come. In deed Gertrude Angeline heard them too. Penrod after h having received the agreeable in intelligence of his appointment on the staff of the gre general Aronburg in whose division too he had served in the Vivian Wicksy Peninsula campaign, had hastened with Gertrude to find traces of the approach of Evans with the Princesses. He had had hardly time to bid good bye to his scouts and was obliged to content himself with a short visit on Jean though he had had an invitation to spend the evenin g with her extended for the purpose of enabling the young boyscout leader to cultivate a better acquaintance with the beautiful little girls elder sister.

As we all know Jeans sister Minnie was certainly a very estimable girlscout, and because Jean had done the heroic deed of saving Jack every one saw reverenced her with a fervor which was almost enthusiastic. It was quite natural therefore that she should wish Penrod---for whom she had knit a pair of socks which had beenno small portion of his inspiration in the how of battle and for and for whom she had contracted a friendship---it was quite natural that she should wish to have the boyscout captian general acquainted with her elder sister. She loved all her boyscout friends and companions, and of course so brave and a handsome and loyal a person as her friend Jack had proved to be m did also share her reverence and respe respect. Besides she and her sister remembered all the past history of the dreadful war with the rebellious Glandelinian States. M n many of her boy friends were even sent to help construct the pontoon bridges acrosss a portion of the flood so that general Aronburg could co cross the dangerous water. she or her sister could tell a very good story, and as Penrod was a well trained military boy it was also highly important that he should know all about the dreaded invasion of Myletze heading through Northern Angelinia State, and intended for Angelinia Agathia in southeastern Calverinia.

Penrod had been obliged to deprive himself of the pleasure of listening to her sisters history of those stirring and horrible events, for more exciting ones were in progress on the ve y very day on which I write. Myletze was victorious, he was pushing Vivianis northward, unkn own to all yet a frightful battle had raged at Evangeline St Claire, Vic-Whirther and other places as will be seen in n ext volume and the forest fire had struck Evangeline St Claire in the east, and was ras racing for Aronburgs camp. It would have been better if he had not then followed Gertrudes plan for he'll have to fight both enemy and fire. Penrod was sorry too of course for he anticipiated a great deal ofpleasure to converse with little Jean and her sister though whether he expected to derive the whole of it from the presence of her sister no one could be informed. Jean was entirely sincere and that it was qui quite proper to offer some extra inducement to secure the gallent boyscout leader's attendance. The boyscout did not need any extro extraordinary inducements as all girlscouts to him were like Fairies of old, like little celestials and he loved them all as if all were his sisters. He would surely have cheerfully have spent the evening with her and others but the high sense of duty led him to Componevit, and then too she had to do some duty and the engagement was broken off. The rebel hordes under Heidi victorious so close to Angelinia

State Border and elated by the signal successes they had recently won, were now pouring in great armies menancing Angelinia Agathia, Dorothy Gale and Non "ombi.It was a time which tried the souls of all Abbisannian men--a time too when no man who loved his holiest country could rest in peace while there was a work which his hands could do,and great n w new armies were forming in the north to strike Glandelinia. Before parting on this new adventure Penrod had called the girlscouts before him and stated his situation that he and Gertrude were going forth to meet if possible the coming of Evans with the Princesses.Jean herself blushed as she always did in the presence of her superior, but gave him a God-speed on his patriotic mission.she hoped ardently that he or Gertrude would not be killed or even wounded, and that God and His Blessed Mother would bless him as he went forth to find o them.she was pale when he took her hand at parting, her little bosom heaved with emotions to wh ich Penrod found a response in his own young heart, but which he could not explain.He heard news of general Vivianis, and that this gallent army which had suffered from the pangs of some defeats,and no encouragement in some victories but yet strong in the cause th they had espoused had tried to resist Mylatze but not successfully now.Of course Penrod had already been provided with his boyscout uniform of staff to the general.The roads here were so cumbered with artillery trains, and baggage wagons left by a recently defeated army of the foe who had contended with Aronburg, while the scouts were having their adventure on the raft, that his progress with Gertrude and the party of soldiers with them was very slow.He knew the nearest of Mylatzes army was at Heidi City,and their cavarly in large and small squadrons were scattered all over the region, gathering in supplies and robbing the refugees of the war.Being too close to the christian army there had been no fear of theirs of meeting with raiding foes.The party led by Gertrude had ridden as rapidly as the horse s g could go but when they had reached this triple cross roads, they were doubtful as to the right way. And now the sound of horse s b behind them, and they did not know whether they were foes or friends.

"Are yourpistols ready for good use ,Penrod!"asked Gertrude as she too heard the sound of the horses feet.

"Yes indeed, I always keep the pistols ready.What do you think.But what are you going to do with pistols here.They'd be of no use I'm afraid if we got attacked by a squadron of Glan landelinian cavarly." replied Penrod as he drew his pistols from their holsters.

"You n know the c u country outside the christian camps is full of radin g Glandelinian cavarly, wheeler patrols and many other soldiers of the enemy, they may shoot at us from ambush you know as they wn't take us child scouts prisoners no more than we will them.I can't spare a risky adventure with them you know."

"Guess not Gertrude"laughed Penrod as he examined the lock of his pistol.

"I have never seen you in any fight yet close quarters Penrod.Do you think you can stand upto it, and not l need a little girl to rescu you!" she asked jokingly.

"Well Miss Aronburg I don't boast much about anything but I reckon I will not run away any faster than you do."

"If I getbinto trouble with these Glandelinian Wheelers I shall want to know whether I candepend on you or not, or whether you can depend on me."

"Well Miss Aronburg, you can de depend me o me as much as I can depend on you."exclaimed Penrod."I do not lik to say anything about it, but if the patrol coming is an enemy and wnts to fight.I'll run away but in the direction they're coming from, and they from me."

They don't look much like Glandelinian patrols added Gertrude, and I believe they're girlscods like me"for she had obtained her first fis view of them and saw they were children."But you can't tell much by the looks in these times, and glandelinian soldiers have fdrser boy and girlscouts than we ever can he you know, and the little villians h have robbed us till half of them wear our own colors even.Those girlscouts certainly wear the uniform of our girlscouts."

There is only two of them ,Gertrude.I reckon they won't attack us.They don't look like enemies either."

"I only wishto be cautious, very likely they are som other christian girlsco not of our own army and reallly lor loyal and true." replied Gertrude, as the strangers came too near to permit any further remarks in regard to their probable character....

Bith the travlers were evidently girlscout officers in the army too, though as Gertrude had suggested it was impossible to tell what anybody now adays was by their looks or uniforms, pretty or not in faces or even if he or she whether soldier, or boy and girl was seen to take the oath of allegiance.As they came around a bend in the road,and discovered Gertrude, and her strong party of troope s and the boyscout, they reined up their steeds and seemd to be disturbed by the same doubts which had troubled the first party. But th ey advanced after a cautious survey, and each of them touched her cap, when they came within speaking distance.Gertrude puplisly returned the salute, and moved or horse tward them.

"Good morning little girlscout."said she to the two."Then to try them to see what their answer would be;"Can you inform me which is the road th t that is directly leading tward Evangeline St Claire city, by which we were expecting to meet some important persons and a guardian of them."

"You are on that road right now, Miss."If you are going in that direction we will not let you for your own good but we shall be glad of your company as I believe you are all right."replied the pr ettiest of the two girls."

"Thank you, I shall be glad to have you with us."

"I see by yor your handsome uniform that you are the head of all girls cout leaders."added the girlscout who had doe the done the talking."

"Yes indeed I am or should be, but I'm not."There's seven others higher than me."and Gertrude without rrserve informed the girl who and what she was.

"My Gosh the famous terrifying Angelinia Agathia, Aronburg whom the main enemy generals dread like posion."exclaimed th e strange girl with a real start."I have heard lots of you before. Perhaps you remember one James Radcliffe of Emprer Vivians army the boy called by the enemy the"Rattle sake." †

"Well Miss I sure do know him." laughed Gertrude.

""Well Miss Aronburg he is inquiring for you and Penrod."

"Indeed! I took you to also be a girlscout officer of the Abbisannian army."

"So I am, but Radclife is taking care of a little child slave who someone rescued last July by the name of Jennie Francis Lillian."

"Radcliffe is a very good sort of a boyscout, but he is an s awful terror to the rebels worst than I am."None of the Glandelinian generals bears any good will tward hi m nor any one of his followers."

"I should say not." And since he is a great spy and scout and a very patilent one too to the enemy I enjoy it quite as much as you do."

"I feel very grateful to him for what he helped her do to me"said Penrod."I was locked into a denof den of rattlesnake by two Professional spies of the enemy.Whensoldiers of the enemy tried to get me exchanged to them for a important prisoner they had he saved me again.Of course we have no taste for Glandelinian prisons for the Glandelinians don't always manage their prisons very well."

"I have heard the whole story.It's ri rich.If you please we will move on."

"With all my heart little girl Major"gertrude replied who read her rank fro from her shoulder straps.

" I am M ajor Jane Maryland, of the Emperid Guard of the Abbisannian army--- nand we have come on detatched duty h just now.We were sent to see general Aronburg on an impor a importent mission."

"I am glad to know you Major Jane Maryland---especially as you are the friend of the Vivian Girl Princesses."

"This is Mildred Heidi, my aide-decamp."

Gertrude saluted the quiet girlscout, who had not spoken a word during the interview.The girlscout Jane Maryland was dressed in an entirely new uniform, and rode a splendid horse, which led Gertrude believed shec she belonged to the Emperial guard of Emperor Vivians army alright.On the other hand though both were very pretty gracefully formed girls they both looked as though they had seen more hard service than was healthy for them and their faces were bronzed by exposure of all kinds of Galvestinian weather.

The party were excellently well acqu inted with each other before they had riddens mile.After the top topics suggested by the first meeting had been exhausted Gertrude mentioned her fears of the Wheelers and the Glandelinian patrols and rebel maruaders who kept a little in advance of the main invading army of Mylatze.The travelers were some distance off from the christian lines n and some distance from the flood itself.The same road they had con timed to ride on was notone of the great ones of the state consequently it looked as if it had been not often used.

"I don't object to meeting a small party of Glandelinians"said the girlscout Major"For Miss Aronburg if you are of the same mind as I feel I am e should show them what we girlscouts are like."

"I hope we shall not even encounter any, especially the Glandelinian known as the Gargoylian Kurds or Wheelers, but if we do I am in no humor to lose my horse or allow ourselves to be massacred by them."replied Gertrude."I don't know how you girls are in emperor Vivians army, but we of general Aronburgs army do not give the Glandelinians any quarter, and never did.But of course we may meet many of them, and so many of them that it would be better to trust to the good quality of the horses speed than to show resistance."

"True indeed Miss Aronburg, I agree with you, too may would sure be very disagreeable and put us at a disadvantage, but say we would not fear a dozen or twenty of them. We could with your force of men here whip that number without the slightest difficulty.The fact is Miss Aronburg we girls and boys here in the army fight as much as soldiers or even more perhaps.There has been too much of this looking at our Gladelinian enemy and then running away.I repeat we are all fighting girls ad boys. As you say you don't give h the enemy quarter. Neither do the scouts anywhere.Emperor Vivian has forbidden us to do that because we are related to the whole swarm of kids massacred by the enemy in the war.If we give quarter we are no scouts."

"I am glad to hear it and Am glad to have met you for I am told there are a good many of these Gladelinian plundering parties loose about this region, and I would rather fight than lose my life." laughed Gertrude.

Thre "Three of us girls with our soldier escort can do a good thing." assed the girlscout major.

"Four girls"suggested Gertrude.

"Four!"

"Thisone too can fight," pointing to a girlscout.

"I didn't see her, by Heavens It's Helen my sister."exclaimed the girlscout Major, glancing back her the girl. She for some reason or other did not seem to be well pleased to discover her younger sister at this distance from home for with many other shivalrous girlscouts she did not want all to go out when some one needed to be home, but she did not scold her but riding up kissed her, and spoke a few encouraging wor s words, but did not seem to enjoy it at all .

"Yes we can whip at least twenty of the Gladelinians added the girlscout major as she resumed her place between Gertrude and her aide-decamp."What do you think."she continued turning to her aide-decamp.

"I hopw hope we shall not meet any.Of course none of us are cowards but a brush with an enemy is no joke, though we fight like the devil if we are attack, for though we are girls we can wield our sabre as good as our enemies" replied the girl."Of all things I dislike those small skirmishes, these hand to hand fights."

"No one likes them but sometimes they cannot be avoided."said the girl.

"I am afraid we will have to test our mettle."said Gertrude."Those fellows thlu though they are not uniformed are Gargoylian Kurds if I'm not mistaken" added she pointing to fourty horsemen who were approuching them. The horsemen who had attracted the attention of Gertrude were hard looking fellows. They were not dressed not Glandelinian soldiers but in a misellaneous a manner, their clothing being partly civilian and partly like those of hoboes or tramps in our country.Portions of the garb of some were new however and probably at no dis distant period had been part of th e stock in trade of some industrious clothier in one the invaded towns and portions were faded and d l dilapidated bearing traces of a severe march through flood.It was not easy to mistake their character.The strange party perceived the small squadron of christian soldiers, and, the four or five child scouts almost as soon as they themselves were observed And strange enough too they adopted no uncertain tactics but instentlyput spurs to their horses horses and galloppped up to the squadron of christians, and too the Glandelinians appeared to have no doubts whatever in regard to the issu of the meeting for they did not resort to any cautious movements, and made no prudental halts.They had evidently had everything their own way in previous encounters, and seeing four girls and a boy among them seemed to be satisfied that they had only to demand an unconditional surrender in order to destroy the little band. Their long sabres gleamed in the air sir and Gertrude could see they were Gargoylian curdes for they flow that banner. Gertrude had already one of her revolvers in her hand and before the leaders of the Glandelinians had reached her she presented her weapon and fired as quick as flashs os l of lightning.The leader dropped from his horse shot through the head,and his pistolowas discharged in the act, but the ball went into the ground.Almost at the same instant instant the others of the party fired killing and wounding fourteen others of the fourty Afro Glandelinians.The others were apparently astonished at this unexpected resistance, and discharged their own pistols, and pressed forward, with their long sabrew sabres intheir hands to avenge the fall of their comrades. Gertrude fired most rapidly on emptying the other barrel of her small revolver and so did the others but without the same decisive decisive effect as before though two of the assailants were killed.For the soldiers who threw themselves in front of the girls to defend them there was no further opportunity to use fire arms, and the troopers therefore draw their swords as they fell back before the impetious charge of the savage Glandelinians. The girlscout major followed their example and for several moments the sparks flew from the sabrew sabres of the combatants.All the troopers were accomplished swordsmen but the furious Glandelinians appeared to be getting the better of them.The girlscouts constrived to wheel their horses and were so fortunate as to get out of the melee with a whole skin.Then they raced backward a short distance and at this point when victory seemed about to perch on the enemy standard, Gertrude, and her three other scouts brought down six more of the Glandelinians at once discharge of the other pistols.The girls were cool, self possessed, and collected.After gettin gout of the melles they had waited untill the troopers were not between them and the assailants and then fired and had taken deliberate aim at the rebels bringing one after another of them down. The new girlscout, who was though a little girl nearly as strong as one of the men succeeded after a desperate hand to hand fight in wounding the man who had attempted to kill her, badly on the arm.The fellow dropped his weapon, and turning his horse started to flee with the utmost precipitation but Penrod fired and brought him down..So fierce however was the contest that the rebels themselves were threatened with annihilation, and then the only remaining ones finding thms the selves alone fled.The battle was won but six of Gertrudes escort escorts were killed and five wounded."I'm going to follow them."cried Jane Marylad rushing madly up to the spot in this desi decisive moment."Let's hunt them down."

"Halt "said Gertrude."It's madness.There might be another of the party and if we run into them unexpectedly we are goners."

"Don't you think we had bette retrace our steps.? said the leader of the escorts."Here comes another party of s ldiers."

This was true but before anything could be done they had rode up close.

"Halt you party with the children."said the man at the head of the party.

"Your business?"" demanded Gertrude."Sory to trouble you,, gentlemen with the children,but we seen your encounter.Did you take any prisoners."said the leader as blandly as though he had been their own.

"No we don't take prisoners.Who are you gentlemen?"asked Gertrude.

"Who are you.?"."

"I don't like to be uncivil to such pretty little girls like you, but as I do not know who you are, why should I tell you, and therefore can't be stopped to be questioned.In one word ,are you Christians ."

"We are nothing else but.I'm Angelinia Agathie Aronburg."

"Oh.Then my mistake for not trusting you.Do you need my assistance further. "Trusting you are all right I wouldn't mind."

Though she spoke Gertrude was si much out of breath w th with the violese of her exertions in co the conflict that she could scarcely say the words.

"Next time you are attacked little girl don't let them escaped."said the man."Cut them down. Don't let them plunder the country or destroy children any more.And give me your hand little girls.You are trumps."

"Thank you and I am happy to recieve the com compliment."replied Gertrude as she took the proferred hand of the new comer.

"As a rule we have come to think much of girl and boyscouts."continued the man"but you in particular and your other girlsfriend there(pointing to Jane) are stunning girls, and as plunplucky as spartians."

"I am obliged to you for your good opinion."said Gertrude.

"Wall anywh wanywye to you girls can sure fight."

"We can when we are forsd to do so."Then turning to Mary's girl companion;

"You remarked a little while ago my friend, that you were a coward by nature didn't you."

"I am afraid Miss Aronburg that I am, but it was safer to fight than it was to run."

"Humph.So you say.You did not behave like anyone who is a coward by nature.You was a perfect wild cat to those Glandelinians."

"But I am sure a coward, and I dislike these hand to hand encounters with so dangerous a foe."

"Wall you din't appear to dislike such fighting at that moment."added Gertrude, who was filled with admiration at the gallent bearing of the girlscout.I"It was you who saved us all ,and you alone."

"Yet I do dread these combats.Yet war is a science of any kind.We all play it as we do chess or checkers.By the way Miss Aronburg do you play any checkers, chess or any card games."!"!!!!!"

"I play all."

"Well any of them Miss- Aronburg are noble games, and I may have the pleasure of letting you beat me sometime at playing checkers.I like to see a well planned battle, and even take a part in it.But these little skirmishes where everything depends on full and brute force are my particular horror and abomination.There d is no science about them, no strategy, no chance to flank or any other spar smart thing."

"Here's comes Penrod."I'll bet he didn't catch the last of the rebels." said Gertrude, as the "fighting boyscout leader" "was seen galloping tward them.

"He is a dare devil boy."replied one of Gertrudes soldiers."I wish he was my son."

"He is a Canadian."

"As much as an Abbiannian to me."promptly returned Jane Maryland. "Why didn't you follow us?"demanded Penrod, almost in a reproachful tone, as he reined in his panting steed.

"We had got enough of it."answered Jane.

"We might have brought the rest of them skunks down if you had joined me in the persuit."

"That just reminds me"said Gertrude" Of that Jack Saunders who didn't stand by little Jean in the fight, and ran away when she was wounded."

""didn't stand by who?"

" A little girlscout by the name of Jean Saunders."

"Who was the deserter.If he was her brother he is a fine one"exclaimed Jane her face flushed with anger."Do you really intend to insinuate that he her brother did not stand by her own his own sister."

"Well he deserted her."but he's not her brother."said Gertrude."He raced away to a safe distance, and another boyscout rescued her, brought her in camp and reported the desertion."

"Did he get away." foamed the girlscout."

"Certainly he did not."replied Gertrude.

"To save her whobore the whole brunt of the assault at the beginning.!"

"That boy Jack Sanders, his brother, and two of my aide-decamps."

"Did he alone fight like a tiger till---!2

"unquestionly he did.His rein got tankled in his spur and whirled his horse around but he saved her and bore her away from the peril.He behaved like a lion."

"He sure is a fighting boy that Jack Sanders."

"He sure is.But he dislikes marching and counter marching very much in the face of any enemy.He believes in pitching into an enemy, and when he is beaten in following him up till there is nothing left of the Glandelinians."

"I regret that you did not join in the persuit of the remaining Glandelinians with me."said Penrod."We might have annihilated them easily."

While the conversation was in progress the others had removed the dead bodies of the Glandelinians from the road, and placed those who were wounded in a comfortableposition under trees.They had filled their canteens with water from the edge of the flood which ran alongside the road a short distance from the spot and left them to live or die as the future might determine.They had also transferred good sam saddles from the hrses of the rebels to their own animals which had not been before provided with one.The party now reinforced moved on again.Mary Land talked about the deserter Gertrude had mentioned;for some reason or other she could talk noth of nothing else. She called the boy a coward and said that he would pay the penalty espcially at deserting a girl when he should have fired the most effective shots and struck the hardest blows which had ever been given.Gertrude agreed with him or with her in all things.

"Never trust a foriger whom you don't now, for it is folly."said Jane."He of course was a coward.There has hardly been few foriegners in our armies that has not showned a cowardly streak.You don't know what foriegners are and therefore we can't trust them, un till we find out their mettle."

"Perhaps you are right."

"I know I am.I am no coward myself but I know nothing about anybody else."

"Your companion there calls herself a coward."

"You don't know anything about her..None of us would ever love you ever or over much if you yourself turned out the yellow streak.Those who are cowards make an enemy out of us best and los most tender hearted scouts. Especially when it's a desertion of a girl.That's dragging our flags into the dust."

Half an hour after the encounter they had returned to camp.

"Well my Neice I see you had had a hard ride,"said Her uncle as they entered the yards of his headquarters.

"We sure have had a hard ride."said Gertrude.Then turning to Mary and her escort"You will permit me to offer yo you the hospilit' hospitality of my uncles headquarters."

"Thank you I accept for one."replied Mary or Jane."I am not tired but I am half starved.

"And you to the other girl.

The other young girl had been in the saddle all day, her health from being reduced by hardships was feeble, and she was very much exhausted by the journey. She had hoped to reach the headquarters of the wi st army corps of girlscouts that morning early and she had been several miles distance from her destination when meeting with Gertrude, and her physicial condition did not seem to admit of this addition of the travel.With many thanks she therefore accepted the invitation so cordially extended and now the party had halted in the ground of a great manison which was geural Aronburgs headquarters.The tired horses were therefore given into the keeping of the army orderlies, and Penrod allowed the girls to led lead the way into the house.They were then ushered into the drawing room, where Penrod excused himself to inform the others of their arival.He left the door open behind him.

"There are two n ew girlscouts."exclaimed the voice"that sounded like Jeans."Get ready to met them you others."

A door leading from the entry then closed, and the others heard no more.

Then all of a sudden fom somewhere else"Good night christian dogs."Me for the open window.Get ot of sight George turner as fast as you can."

Gertrude and the others paid n attention to the remark, and the others with her followed their her example. Gertrude though she said nothing to her comp anion about the strange remark to which they had justlistened but could thin not help thining thinking of it.She and those with her had been alu alluded to"as christian dogs"within general Aronburgs headquarters.It was evident that some one had been present who ought not to be present, but as she had two new friends with her it was not then right for her to investigate the meaning of the suspicious words. Penrod pr essently returned to the drawing room, attended by general Aronbur g himself, and with him was the beautiful but majestic little Jean Saunders whose voice was always as musical as the rippling of a mountain rill.General Aronburg was happy to see his neice had returned, and whose presence was more than welcome to him after her long stay away from him. He hoped that her plan of enabling his army to cross the narrow part of the flood would enable him to drive the Glandelinian invaders from the soil---conquer capture and even exterminiate them.General Aronburgs words were always strong enough to prove his royalty, and these added to the fact that Jane Maryland was an officer of oe of the brigades of girlscouts under the Princesses satisfied Gertrude that she had sure gotten into good company.

"The more true gu girlscouts we have the better--for we have been completely overrun by these Glandelinians."said the general, alluding to the news of general Myletzes march.

"I'm af afraid you u e use overconfiding words general."added the little wouded wounded gi l gi girl whose bright eyes flashed as she spoke.

"I say what I mean"continued the general.

"Is there any doubt of the fact that the whole state of Calverinia has been invaded by the glandelinians Jean?"asked Gertrude with a smile.

"none whatever, but general Aronburg says's Myletze canbe driven out." replied Jean.

"Is there any doubt of that fact.!"

"Yes indeed.Myl tze is a fighter. Our troops are fighting for the dearest rights of our country.But do you think anyon e yet can whip that crazy and terrible Mylotze?"demanded she warmly.

"Undoubtedly not. Put we can have the generals try anything for once for otherwise if Myletze continues to advance this war will be long drawn out."

"I beg your pardon Gertaude."said Jean."I think he will.Permit me to add, he is advancing alreafy.We are in peril ourselves, and Vivianis is forced to give way."

"I am very sorry to hear it." said Gertrude, pleasesd with the spirit no less the beauti beauty of the frail child scout.

"I know you are, and so am I."replied she."Abbiannis is fighting for to supress the horrors of child slavery- and Calverinia is fighting for its own existance.The right to set free child sleves is just as evident to me as the right to live.And yet from his character and his military genius Heidi Myletze is our main danger all over.If Glandelinia is to win the war which I ardently hope not, it will by the genius of Myletze."

"I'll kill hi when the first chance Iget."retorted Gertrude."I'll put them "B Napoleons or Glandelinian Robert Lees out of the way..."

The question of this situation was fully discussed by the two girlscouts but both of them were in the best of humor.Neither playing playful contestant succeeded in convincing the other on a single point, and when the party were

called to Breakfast they had advanced just about as far as any statesmen statesmen when the momentous issue was handed over.Jean then ended it by saying "Well Gertrude to settle our dispute on this subject as we cannot now come convince each other it will be a matter for all our armies to adjust by very hard fighting, and so we shall not attempt to settle the matter but let the the subject drop."

The whole in the Mess hall as Jane Maryland could judge were good girlscouts and boys indeed, friendly n loving and so on.The imperial young girlscout Jean who was a fit type of a brilliant kind was her main attraction.Though like a princess in her bearing bearing, and manners she was not proud and haughty and was a very friendly and agreeable child, and the two new girlscout visitors entirely loved her society at once.They questioned as how her shoulder was wounded and she however i just then declined to explain and only smiled and said"But I am a heroine, and it is sorely against my will, I confess that I cannot now tell you the reason.But we are new together, and so i let us be good friends."

"With all my heart."replied the gallant young girlscout ceptian.

A very pleasant early morning was spent in the drawing room during which littl little Jean affected the company of the new comers.She Jane she was lively, always happy, witty, and fascinating and was very much delighted with the society of all girl and boyscouts and she then after the breakfast told of her rescuer and then of how she later had rescued him in turn.He was then called for, and to Jane he was an exceedingly good looking little boy but he was a true Abbiannian, and she liked him too.She compelled him to relate thw the history of his rescue of Jean and of the desertion of the other.She laghed at the chagrin of the Glandelinians, when he told how he grabbed up jean and not only row rescued her under fire, but keepo peep keeping her on his horse then followed and chased after the deserter with two others and captured him.She took no pains to conceal her sympathy with the cause of Abbiannia. Finally the girlscouts and Gertrude announced their intention to depart again after breakfast and therefore they took leave of the building leaving the two new girlscouts there.They both were so kind as to hope they might meet the girlscout ceptian general again. Then before the time for the sun to rise Gertrude ad and this time Mildred Maxwell were in the saddle.Penrod, whose route lay in a different direction,was no longer their companion.If not explained before general Aronburgs headquarters were on the ground near the edge of the floods, and the two travelers wended their way again in another direction, and went through a beautiful section of country which excited the admiration of even Gertrude, though it was no new scene to her.They had hopes of meeting Evans with the Vivian Girls returning from the captivity.As they were leaving the reveille was soundeding in the camps within hearing and also they heard it as they passed through on their way first to the tent of the commanding general in charge of that section, general Blain Night Linger.They stopped here fast, and they names were sent in by an orderly in attendance as Gertrude first wished an interview with this "fighting man".

"Why miss Aronburg I am more than happy to see you have returned."said the general immediately coming forward out of his tent to meet her"You were gone so long I was afraid you had met with fatal experiences."

"Thank you general.I am very gr grateful for the kindness and consideration you and your army has always bestowed upon us girlscouts."replied Gertrude"I want to use for a time if you can spare him your trained aide-decamp for I need later to give you an appointment because you are a good general and greatly feared by the enemy."

"I will lend him to you since knowing your's was killed, and I will do my best also in whatever position you may place me."

"I will leave that to the fair little Princesses when they return." laughed Gertrude.

"You and your followers were sure terri ly unfortunate in your trip on the huge raft, but you accomplished the work, that even the Fair Princesses never expected you would do one third way.We shall do some hard fighting in a day or two if your plans are carried out."

"And there will be sharp work for you to do before that come off."Laughed Gertrude.

"I am ready Miss Aronburg.Every soldier is ready to march or fight as long as he can stand while you and your fair girlscouts are here to inspire us."

Gertrude smiled at this and said;

"Thank you for the compliment general.I will see you again when I return and I hope I come back with the Vivian Girls."

Gertrude long before this had made the acquaintance of the generals whole

"Military family". His position and rank were defined highest next to general Aronburg and duly promulgated.From those around her after she first had returned to camp from the raft she had obtained all the current knowledge in regard to the situation of the vast Glandelinian armies under Mylatze which was un unknown places just now, but ever pushing vivianie befo before him with a range of the forest fire in his rear.Gear General Blain Nightlinger was a tall straight well formed man, with a bright complexion and a strong frame.His eye was full of energy and he spoke with his eye as well as with his voice.His military history was familar to every one in the whole nation. Besides he was a very decided man and his decisions had won him his first appointment in Concentinian Aronburgs his army.He always was meaning what he said, ad also meant anything he said.His one an r energy of character had made himm success from the beginning.His faith in himself, in God and his faith in the army was unbounded and he fought an d conquered not only by his force of his mighty will but by his prayers, and trust in god to help him pull through.He also attempted only what was possible and won victories through His faith in God more than in himself.His military judgement was unsual and of the highest order and when he decided anything that could be done it did it.His conclusions however suddenlybreached were notthe off spring of impulse they were carefully drawn from well founded premises.His quick eye and his solid judgement rapidly collated all the facts in regard of the strength of the enemy, relative situation who the foe commanders were and the advantages of theirposition, and from them he promptly deduced the con conclusions whether to fight or not--how, and where, and when to fight.

THE generals pet name was Fighting Lightning"and by this nickname h he was known and loved throughout not only the various armies he might be appointed to serve in(for he never was commanding the same army or wing) but throughout the whole nation. But he was not a rash man nor an over cautious one he made no un considered movements.If the - term implies rashness and blundering impetuousity is would be a mistake, but after Evangelinia Crania, Jennie vivian, Jennie Turner and other places who could mistake its meaning for his battles were tooniformly successful to be the issues of merely headlong courage, recklessness and unnatured strategy.All his operations in many other fights too many to be man mentioned here where he had so gloriously distinguished himself exhibited a head as well as an arm carefully considered plan as well as bold and determined execution.

The men tion of "Fighting Lightning warmed the hearts of all the christian soldiers who know him ad who fought under him.He too was far more popular than any other general in som armies excepting Aronburg and indeed all the christian soldiers were thinking men as well as brave ones.None of the Angelinians could love and honor a general or any leader who led them into the forefront of battle to be entrapped and slaughtered, and also they could not and would not believe in a man whose highest recommendation was brute and reckless courage."Fighting lightning" was also one of the most able strategists of Concentinian Aronburgs army, and wherever wherever he has ever justified his title as a fightingman he has also always displayed the highest skill and judgement, and a profound kn ol knowledge and appreciation of the science of war.Yet this great general had stood before Gertrude Angeline with a certain feeling of awe and reverence which one experiences in the presence of a truly favorable princess.Too there had never been any time to talk of the past for the present and the future were full of trials and cares---were full of a very nations life and hope. General Blain N ightlinger was always cool and self possessed as he had always shown himself in the mad rage of the hotest battle but he was also earnest and most anxious.He was even now preparing to do that work which wins battles quite as much as the fiery onslaught.General rancis Turner was in command of the extensive right wing which occupied the vinicity of Hiedi Run.The rebels of Mylatzes van guard had just been arriving as far as Middle Creek but it was evident to all the generals that it would be some days to pass before there would be any pitched battles with Mylatze.Gertrude not only desired to watch for the approach of Evans and Violet, and her sis o sisters but she wanted to obtain certain info information which she thought Penrod was smart enough to procure for her, and she had sent him on ahead in another direction.A map had lain on the table in the tent and in a few telling words she had explained to himwhat she wanted.

"But don't be rash Penrod"said she as she rose to depart on her own mission."Like you have always shown intelligent courage is what we want and and nothing else.Therefore Penrod I shall depend on you for all the skill and discretion as well as dash and boldness as you can show."

"I will do the best I can"He had replied, and then he had left the tent and mouh mounted his horse.While Gertrude was gone off on her own mission he had dashed off toward middle creek, and he reached this place only in several hours at about eight oclock in the morning and completely with his instructions pursued a southerly course untill he reached a point beyond the native operations of General Baldwins christian cavarly, which was scouring the country.Leaving his horse at an abandoned farm house he advanced on foot to the westward of the creek and suddenly discovered large squadrons of Glandelinian Ohavian Cavarly approaching in an endless column and Penrod was obliged to dodge out of their sight.With the style of their large square hats they looked to him like an enormous army of mounted College students just coming through with their professional training and having passed the examination.He had obtained his information, Mylot'zes army was closer than supposed and Penrod fully acquainted himself with the natue of the country and the situation of the Glandelinian army to the north east and southeast of the shores beyond the narrow stretch of the flood.It was nine oclock when he had completed his reconnoissance and he was nearly exhausted by the long walk he had taken and the excitement of his occupation.He was at least two miles from the old abandoned farm house where he had left his horse.He had eaten nothing since his brief breakfast and he felt faint from the want of food.He walked one mile and stopped to rest at a very magnificent mansion which evidently had belonged to some great man long before.He was tempted to visit the big house and ask for some refreshment, but then as he was alone, and knew nothing of whom the occupants may be he did not deem it prudent to do so.After resting a short time and watching the smoke clouds far in the distance rise to an enormous height into the sky as if it was a great volcanic eruption he continued h is weary walk toward the farm house.As he passed the very door of the large house a squadron of girlscouts stopped at the gate, and a young officer helped the leading one down from her horse.A aide-decamp led the horse away. The girlscoutpassed at the gate, and appeared to be observing him.At first Penrod could not understand the reason while the girl she should watch him and he continued on his course untill he came within a few feet of where he stood.

"Captian Penrod"exclaimed she"How come you here.I'm delighted to see you again so soon."

"I have accomplished my mission Ger Gertrude"replied he not a little surprised to find her here when he thought she wascout looking for the Vivian Girls.

"This is an unexpected pleasure to know of your mine success"Added she extending her hand which Penrod looking at her in surprise took.

"I should hardly have expected to meet you at this distance from the ar y army"He said."Did you find the Princesses.!

"The Princesses, what Princesses do you mean---oh I remember Hav the Vivian Girls.Oh I heard they were coming to stop in this place.You are some distance from the Christian army."

"As you are my friend Gertrude Angeline it is hardly Under par for me to inform you why I am here." laughed he."I am hungry and looking for something to eat"Did Didn't you have breakfast this morning."!

"Yes."

"And hungry so soon."

"It is not well then that you are away from your army then, for they shall be moving away in a few days."

"Perhaps not Gertrude"but I shall be with the army before noon."

"Not if I can help it"thought the girl to herself and she said aloud;

"This is my new Aide-decamp Major Hanson, and"and she turned to the boy scout who had followed the orderly to the stable and had just returned.

"How do you do Major"Said Penrod.

"Happy to meet you, Captian general Penrod." replied the major but to Penrods surprise not very cordially.

"N ow you must come to the house general Penrod.It is just breakfasthtime wi with us."continued the girlscout.

Penrod was too faint and gu hungry to refuse. The girlscout leader conducted Penrod to the sitting room of the strange house.He was followed by the aide-decamp, who judging by his looks and actions, regarded the boyscout with no special favor whatever, and was not even by his looks anything like a friend, indeed far from it.Penrod had noticed the look and said nothing thinking the aide-decampwas jeal jealious.Gertrude did all the talking, however and seemed to do it too with the solsole purpose of keeping the aide-de-camp in the shade, for she most carefully turned aside two or three strange and hostile observations he had made as though they were of no consequence or as though they might provoke a very unpleasant t

conversation or argument.

"I am particularly delighted to meet you again on your return trip Penrod"said Gertrude, as they entered the apartment.

"Thank you miss Aronb r Aronburg"replied he, though he could see no good reason why she talked this way all of a sudden , and was quite herself at all.And her hair to his surprise did not appear so decidedly golden she did not smile when she spoke as was her customary way.He was also a great boyscout leader, and though foriegn loyal to the Abbicunnian cause, and so was she and with strength and mind enough to regret that her sex compelled her to be nothing but a girlscout leader, and she couldn't be a general like her uncle.Gertrude was always to him a magnificient and dignig dignified little girlscout, imperial in her manners, even to Penrod whose knowledge of the higher order of beautins among little girls that float about in the mists of home and abroad was very limited.She was as fascinating as any proty child could be to any boy; and never since he first met her could he resist the charm not only of her society but in the pr s present t instance he was too much exerted exhausted by over-exertion on the raft to be as brilliant as he usually was.

"This is very unexpected considering the distance from the place at which we parted company early this morning."said he.

"Oh it isn't a very great distance to the christian lines.My horse rode me down this far in three hours. " replied she. He looked at his wrist watch, and saw truthfully it was only two hours since they parted; and believing she made a mistake said nothing but suddenly the aide de camp said."It was three hours and on e quarter, Angelinia"and hedinterposed this apparently because he might have felt the necessity of saying something to avoid being regarded as a mere cipher .

"How do you still feel this morning after the little brush we had early this morning Gertrude."added Penrod.

"What brush do you refer to, a hair brush!"asked the girl rather surprised.

"The little clash we had with the Gargoylian Curdes."

"My dear friend really you're mistaken you have."

"Now Angelinia will you excuse me for a few minutes or so!"said Gertrudes Aide-de-camp very impltely breaking in upon her remark.

"Certainly"replied Penrod"But you were rude to break in our conversation like that. As to you Gertrude you sure are a fighting girl,and the affair of the earliest moment of this morning was prety sharp work for a few minutes."

"Of course I'm a fighting girlscout, and also I'm a good horseback rider, but---but--"

"Angelinia, don't you remember you promished me something; and you should remember."said the aide-decamp whostill lingered in the room"And no w is the best time for a girlscout leader to redeem her faithful prom se promise."

"What do you mean boy!" demanded the girlscout.

"Why don't you remem mber."

"Cross my heart, and hope to die I don't;""

"Perhaps Captian Penrod will excuse you for a few minutes or so, while I'll tell you what you promised."

"Certainly to be sure. "added Penrod; and the aide-decamp moved toward the door, Gertrude following him.Penrod saw her whisper something to him as she took him by the arm in a familiar manner. Then he whispered something.

"Oh yes indeed I remember it all now."exclaimed she; with sudden vivacity. "You may go; and I will return in a few moments captian Penrod if you will excuse me."said she to Penrod.

"By all means don't let me interfere with any arrangements you have been making."

They therefore retired, and the door closed behind them.Penrod was quite beforged by the conduct of both Gertrude and the boyscout.Several times too she had interrupted him and the aide-decamp, and too the aide-decamp s seemed to show that Gertrude was starting to have astonishingly bad memory.she did not seem to remember the fight with the Gargly1 Gargoylian Curdes on the road, and too she seemed or was equally Unmindful of what had passed between him and[illegible] strangeand [illegible]
and the girlscout leader at some period antecedent to the present.

He noticed too for some reason or other they were both quite intimate and slightly versed as the young boyscout officer was in affairs of love and matrimony he had seen he had no difficulty in driving to the strange conclusion that the interesting girl and boyscout who had just left him were not more than friends but were conspiring in something secret which evidently they did Not want him to overhear or suspect, and though he did Not at all have the k skill to determine what particular secre t they had made; He ventured to believe they were not as friendly to him as Gertrude usually was. Though

it seemed to him a rather a rash and unjustorized conclusion or rash judgement, was seemingly a correct one, showing that young boys know many things by intuiti

And wh at Penrod did not like was that some how or othe r Gertrude Angelina did not appear at all as she had appeared the earlier hours of the morning.Her uniform did not look quite so gay in its color, her hair seemed strangely l ss golden and not so handsomely arranged as she generally fixes it, her manner was more brusque and less pla nolished and respectful,and she spoke with a heavier and more solid tone of voice. It then he reckoned girls are not always could not always be the same on one hour that they may be on another, and therefore he believed it was quite probable that Gertrude must be suffering for the want of his own breakfast or from some vexationnot apparent to others. Of Course Penrod too wanted his breakfast, as badly too, a ot as a king is impatient for the feast that is to satisfy his hungry cravens, but as a boy who knows ad feels that food is strength.No one out gymnasiums and so forth could endure the hardships of an empty stomache for his whole body seemed to derive their power more directly than usual from that important organ.He did not however worry himself himself to obtain a solution of wht what was singular in the conduct of the girl and the boy, though he felt apprehensive that she was going going back on him. And they were absent but a few moments before Gertrude returned.If she had been gone down stairs and phased through a Abhinannian uniform school in the antern her tone and her manner could not have been more changed than it was now.She looked and acted more like the original Gertrude of a few hours before.She was even all sweetness and suavity now, and what was far more strange still her memory was as perfect as though she had all the memories of the studies of a life time.

"aptian Penrod that was the worst fight for a small and desperate skirmish that I ever happened to be in."said the girl, after the event had been terribly rehearsed."

"It was short indeed for a few minutes.By the way Gertrude, what is your opinion of little Herold Jean now?"asked Penrod.

"Well I was rather surprised to see him go into the fight as he did.He is a brave little boy."

"Indeed you are either dreaming or mistaken.He was not in the fight, and neither is he a boy.It's a girl."said Penrod.

"So she is I made a mistake, but I did not know whether she was in the right or not but I thought she was when you asked me the qu stion."

"But she was not along with us.She's wounded in the shoulder you know.Wake up Gertrude what's the matter."

"Oh I was sure of it."

"Were you."efore the fight you seemed to be far off the opinion that some of your followers were of no accounts."

"That was said concerning strange foriegn boyscouts in general always had a great deal of confidence in Jean.When she fired her gun I knew what the boy meants."

"Listen Gertrude I'm telling you she was not in the fight."

"You are right it was possible she was not in the fight"said Gertrude with more confusion than her trifling mistake could justify.

"In the pursuit of the Glandelinians--- ------- ."

"Yes in the pursuit you was splendid."continued Gertrude,taking the words out of Penrods mouth."You forg t again Gertrude, you conducted the pursuit alone."Mildly added Penrod looking at her closely to see if she was perfectly sane or so dumb from lack of sleep that she did not know what he she was saying.

"Oh yes so I did.I am mixing up this matter with another affair in which your boyscout Jean chased the christian dogs"----

"Chased the what?"interposed P n Penrod, confounded by this singular and unusually startling and most inappropriate remark.

"The Glandelinians I said"laugh ed the girl scout."What did you think I said?"

"I understood you to say the "Christian Dogs.""

"Oh No.Christian do s dogsIf on one myself.I said Glandelinians.Gargoylians or Gurigans whatever you call them."

"If you did I misunderstood you, or you are out of your head this morning.I called the only Glandelinians.But Gertrude what's wrong.You never acted like this before.Are you sick, or too sleepy to think.If so why didn't you rest up."

Penrod was disposed to be pl polite even at the sacrifice of the point of veracity, therefore he did not hardly con tradict his companion though he felt entirely certain in regard of the langage a language used and that something was decidedly wrong with her.Maybe he thought the hardships of the past and

of no consequence or as though they might provoke a very unpleasan t

her losses on the raft was turning her mind.

"Of course you could not have meant christian dogs whatever you said." added Penrod.

"Certainly not. Do you know why I didn't catch those christian--- those--- those Glandelinians?" continued Gertrude

"I do not replied Penrod, but he had strong suspicion that it was because she was not really in the pursuit or that it was because she did not want to even try to catch them be cause it would be more prudent not to catch them and besa use it would have been in the highest dra degree exceedingly dangerous for her to catch them.

"I'll tell you why I didn't catch them."added the girlwithout rubbing her hands as a man does when he had a point or an appointment to make."It was because there were no one to catch."

"Good night"exclaimed Penrod to himself."The girl must be nutty, and then Penrod who had the judgement sum how or other too to suddenly perceive that this answer might be intended for a joke and who was plotte enough to render the homage to due to such a tremendous effort----a laugh as earnest as the circumstances would per mit.

"Or possibly it was because their horses were too fast, or that mine went slower than theirs"added the girl seemingly with the evident design of perpetrating a joke even more stupendous than the first.We must hes to suggest to our readers, young and old that any person can and does always lay himself open more by his jokes, his puns and his witticisms than by any other means of communication between one person and the other with which we are acquainted.Sometimes a man can be talking about business, politics morality, or religion and you may have a very inadequate idea of his moral and mental resources.Hear him just, hear him make a pun hear him indulge in a witticism and you would have his brains mapped out before you.I have often heard a man get off a witticism and felt an infinite contempt for him, we have heard a man get off a witticism, and felt a pr ofound respect for him.It is not the thing said and it also is not the manner in which it is said it is noththe look either of which it may or is said.It is all three combined.He who would conceal himself from those around him should neither get drunk or attempt to get funny. Gertrude Angelina had now revealed herself to Penrod more completely in that unguarded joke than in all that had passed between them before.Penrod was not a moral or even a mental philosopher, but that reconizing jest had given him a poorer opinion of his companion than he had before entertained.He was even suspicious.It was fortunate for her that her side-decamp Frank returned before he had the opportunity to launch another witticism upon the sea of Penrods charity or the latter might have absolutely learned to despise her or think she had lost her mind.

Another thing thing that came to him as a shock was the next.

"Well sidedecamp we have not lately been honoured by the voluntary presence of boyscouts leaders at breakfast, Penrod and you will pardon me for lingering an extra moment before my big looking glass." s aaid she.

"Strange please."said Penrod.

"Thank you captian that sounded r pretty sarcastic. "

"Excellent."was added the side-decamp who seemed to be hungering and thirsting for something funnyy, or smart .....

A bell ran in the hall at the o moment, which Penrod never heard before for the call of meal, been calle were sounded with the bugle but nevertheless he was thankful for however much despite her strangely sudden queer ways he enjoyed the society of the fascinating Gertrude, he could not forget that he owed a solemn duty to the outraged member of his body corporate which had been kept fasting since the afternoon before having had no time for supper.

"N ow gentlemmen sh i shall I have the pleasure of conducting you to the dining room."?"

"Gentlemen!"Thought Penrod "Strange way to address boyscouts, sounds Glandelinian to me"but he answered "Thank you."

"Your arm if you please captian Penrod."said the brilli n brilliant little lady.

Of course Penrod complied with this strange but reasonable request, though he had not been in the habit of observing these li tle courtesies in the army and that he had always offered her his hand first.It seemed to him that it would have been more proper in the present instance for him to have only offered her his hand as he always did but somehow he was utterly unable to settle the difficult question.....

They passed through the hall and entered the dining room. The table was laid for only three, and wh i while Penrod was wondering where the rest of the scouts were who had accompanied her, a tremendous knocking was heard at the front door.

"Somebody is in trouble"Said Gertrude."Or is knocks like som officer who comes with commands."Take this seat please captian while I goand answer it."

"Th ank Miss Aronburg,"replied Penrod as he took the appointed pl ce place. "I hope it isn't any christian dog after me."added the aide-decampto himself as he seated himself opposite Penrod."I don't w n want them to catch me yet."

"You shall not be in any such danger"answerad Gertrude who had almost read tv the boys mind, and as a boyscout entered the room with a document in his hand.

"For your aide-de camp"said the boy as he presented the note to him.The aide-decamp took the letter and broke the seal, apologizing to Penrod for doing so and doughing too in the meantime .Then his eyes suddenly ope od opened wider than their usual spread and it seemed as if his chin dropped till mouth and eyes were both eloquent with astonishment.He then sprang out of his chair and assumed an attitude in the highest degree dramatic.Pen Penrod had expected him to shout out a joke.

"What is it Francis!"demanded Gertrude who seemed to be enduring the most agonizing suspense.

"I must go this instant."exclaimd the boyscout pout still gazing as if with fright at th e momentious letter.....

"What has happened!"

"Don't ask me Gertrude."answered he in excited tones."I will be back before this evening, perhaps I'll be back even in one hour.You will excuse me captian Captian Penrod.....!"

"Certainly "replied Penrod.

The aide-decamp rushed to the decor attempting to cram the letter into his pocket as he moved off, but P nrod saw the document fall to the flooor, apparently or absolutely without the notice of the owner.

"What does it mean I wonder!"said Gertrude with a trouble look.

Penrod surely did not know whathit meant, and if he had it surely would have been doubtful whether he would have had the courage to stop to breakfast. "What in the world could have happened!!!!"said Gertrude, apparently musing on the event which had just been transpiring."My aide-decamp is not often so deeply moved as that and he appeared to be very excited just now. "

"Maybe he has recieved a li letter of great importance evidently."said Penrod."He has dropped the letter on the flooor."

"So he has."said she glancing at the document."Thus far I have always resisted the temptation to know more than the laws allow and I think I will not yeild to it now.And it would not be honerable for me to read his letter without his permission after especially the boy had refused to inform me what the lt letter has.But whatever it may be, we will have some breakfast."

Whatever opinions Penrod may have entertainedhon som of the other points suggested by this fair little hostess he had none in regard to the last proposition.He was absolutely and heartily in favor of the breakfast without regard tothe cur iousity of Mother Eve.And besides the breakfast was a very f good one, hot cakes and p mollasses even though the two opposiitg sides had so rec n recently gathered up all the provisions which the country outside the disaster zone appeared to contain. With every moun mouthful he ate Penrods strength seemed mysteriously to retutn to him.The breakfast was so goof good but yet was not so formal as might have been expected at hom home and did not occupy over half an hour, but in that half hour he had grown more stronger and more vigorious and felt equal to any exxiting moment or emergeney that might occur.However agreeable the society of his girl friend Gertrude had always proved he began to be very impatient for the moment when he could without outraging the laws of propriety break the spell which bound him.He had faithfully discharged his duty to the inner man and he hwthought him that he owed another and higher obligation to his country, that the commanding geeral of Aronburgs left wing was expecting to hear from him though the time given himby Gertrudevto complete his mission had not yet expired.While he was considering som some fit excuse with whih to tear himself away from his interesting companion, which had not ever detained him like this before---for it surely anyway was not prudent in inform even any person that he had been engaged in collecting information for the use of any christian general, and must return and report the result of his mission--- while he was thinking what he should therefore say to her he heard something which sounded marveliously like the tramp of many horses feet on the walks which surrounded the building.These sounds might have been sufficient toereate a tempest of alarm in himmind if he had not believed that he was far enough away from the camps of the Glandelinian army to ensure the estate from a visit of their scouting cavarly parties or squadrons.He did not know exactly where he was in relation to theline of either army, but nevertheless he felt a most

reasonable assurance that he and Gertrude too was out of the reach of any danger from the enemy .He therefo re listened,with tolerable coolness to the clatter of the feet of many horses, and finally at first concluded that the animals must belong to the estate.This conclusion however was soon most unpleasantly disturbed by other and more suspicious sounds than the tramp of horses-----sucunds like the clutter ad clang of cavarly equipment.More than this, Gertrude too loked loked looked an xious and over excited when there appeared to be not the least reason for anxiety and excitement on her part.

"Won't you take another apple please captian."said she glancing uneasily at the window, and then at the door.

"No more I thank you Gertrude."replied Penrod "You seem to be having more visitors."

"No ,I think not."answered she mildly, and yet with assumed carelessness.

"Then what is the meaning of all those sounds outside then!"

"They are nothin g Penrod, perhaps some of the boyscouts leading the horses down to the meadow."

"Y Do those horses wear cavalry trappings ,Gertrude.you know we never have those on our horses even though we cary the customary weapons."

"N ot that I am aware of.Do you think there is any Glandelinian cavarly around the house.?"

"I'm positive there are, and with yer permission I will step out and learn the occassion of this visit"said he, rising from the table and making sure that the two revolvers, he wore in his belt were in good workin g order.

"I hope you do not intend to leave me to them Captian Penrod" remonstrated Gertrude.

"I am only desiring to see to whom the cavarly belong."

"I depend upon you for protection ,captian"said Gertrude as she rose from her seat of the table."Ah here is some on e coming, who will explain it all to you." she aded as the front door was heard to open and then close again rather violantly.

"I do not think it will need much to explain things."replied Penrod as through the window to his consternation he discovered two gray back cavarly men with hoods on their heads."We are in peril of capture.It is quite evident that the house is surrounded by Glandelinian cavarly.Your aide-decamp I'll bet was an enemy in disguise and has betrayed us."

At this moment the door of the dinning room opened and the a- a-de-decamp stalked into the apartment.He looked at Penrod and then at the little girlscout.The troubled astonished expression on his face went he went away had disappeared and he wore what Penrod could not help observin g as a smile of triumph.

"Well Gertrude how is it now!" asked the boyscout Aide-decamp, as for the sixth time at least or more he glanced from Penrod to her.The brilliantly beautiful little girlscout leader made no reply to this indefinite question. This time she did not even speak as a real civilized girl would speak to her friends but threw herself in to a chair with an unusual abandon which would have been very unusual to even a first lady of a first class comedy but which was highly discreditable in a first girl class girlscout leader discharging only the duties of even the social amenities in refined society. She threw herself into a high chair and began to laugh as though she had been suddenly seized with a fit of hysterics. Penrod looked surprised and somewhat annoyed.A less susceptible person than himself indeed would have been surprised to see an elegant and most accomplished girlscout leader laugh so violently when apparently there seemed nothin g to be laughed at.He could not understand it, a wiser and more experienced person than Penrod Penrod could not have understood it.If the aide-decamp from the great unborn and unusual humor in his subtle brain had launched forth one of the most tremendous of his words of wit or comedies, the mystery would have solved its l itself to him or if the boy had uttered anything but the most common place and easily explained remarks Penrod also would have evidently thought that he had told a sort of joke which he was not keen enough to perceive. The house was surrounded by Glandelinian cavarl u Glandelinian cavarly What was no joke to him nor Gertrude i either he fancied for he was an officer in the command of the Princess Prin cesses"on detatched service and that proved more dangerous and fatal to one would prove equally as dangerous a fatal to the other.But the aide-decamp did not seem to be the least apprehensive by thecircumstance [illegible] by the Glandelinian cavarly.

He stood looking at the girlscout leader as though he was waiting for her next move in the developing of the strange game.

. . . . .

"What in the world are you laughint laughing at now Angelinia!"asked he when both he and penrod had watched her untill his own patience was somewhat shaky or tried, and that of Penrod had become what cow convulsed.

"It is sure comical and very funny.Gasped she as she struggled for utterance between the grw great fits of laughter.

"If it is very funny"replied he, obediently though it was quite plain that he did not regard the scene as so terribly amusingly as the girl did; why "why don't you tell me what it is.!"

"You would not laugh at all then."

"I would Miss if I had the time but I must proceed to business."

"Don't spoil the good scene yet please"she said with great difficulty.

"Hury it up then please Angelin ia.I'm gettin g tired waiting."

"Captian Penrod"added she, repressing her crazy laughter to a more reasonable limit"I am supposed to be your most obedient servant am I not?"

"Thank you, but you are supposed not to be but I am supposed to be."replied he, beginning to apprehend for the very first time that he himself was individually and personally the very victim of the full joke which has so excited the merits of the girlscout."But whether I am, or you are, will youoblige me by giving me the desired information of what you are laughing at."

The girlscout broke forth anew, and peal on peal of laughter rang loudly and frantically through the room.Penrod was nervious but he tried to think what he had said or done that was soad o astoundingly funny, having satif satisfdd himself that his own humor would therefore certainly make his fortune when given a wider field of operations.And therefore it was evident that it would not do for him to be as funny as he could thereafter in the presence of girlscouts and the lije like or any one of them might yet die of hysterics.

"Do you swely and honestly want to know what I am laughing at Captian Schoefield Penrod!" asked she at another brief interval of apparent sanity.

"I am in particular desire of finding out.Did I do anything funny, or make a funny face that would disturb you, said anything funny, orl---or----?"

"No indeed I am laughing at the very situation.At least Penrod you know that there is something most irestibly ludicrous in such situations Captian?I delight in situations-----at least very funny situations I mean to tell you."

"Really as far as I can observe I do not see anything very comical in the present situation."replied the puzzled boyscout officer.

"Too bad then if you do not, but I'm afraid you won't appreciate the situation fromyour own stand point.What a pity we have not a good and reliable photographer to make us a scene of this, for futu re inspection...

"Well Miss Aronburg, for som reason or otherbyou sure seem to be making merry at my expense.Well if so I am joyful to have afford ed so great a girlscout leader so much mirth and amusement, but I am afraid I am still your full depter for the bountiful hospitla hospitality you have shown me here."

"You need not mention it, captian, and also you won't wish to mention it in a few hours hence."

"I assure you I shall ever gratefully remember your kindness to me."

"Perhaps not "laughed the little madian maidian.

"Captian Penrod, interposed the boyscout aide-decamp,"I surely believe we have carried the joke far enough, and we will not have to proceed to thr most serious part of the business.In a few words to say you,,,---"""""""

"Stop, boyscout general if youplease."Interrupted Gertrude almost sternly "This is my affair and not yours."

"For the loke of Jupiter hurry it along much faster the n if you will Angelinia .The people will get tired waiting outside."

"Don't you intefere. You forgot that you are a Abbiannian offiser of boyscouts belonging to the Concentinian Home Brigade. Many insist that you are, and of course therefore you are or must be.""

"Of course I am, I had almost forgotten the circumstances."laughed the Aide-de-camp.

"Well Miss Aronburg since it seems you are to manage the affair I will thank you mu most brilliantly to gi ve me the information of what you are trying to drive at!" demanded Penrod with the least evidence of impatience in his tones.

"Indeed, and wu with the greatest pleasure, indeed again, with a pleasure which you cannot yet appreciate I will inform you all aboiud it.But my dear Captian Penrod in deference to a girlscout who has always admired you, feted you accompanied you on ca campaigns and so forth on the raft, dined you you will therefore answer a few questions which I shall be asking you before I prossed to explain matters."."....."

"For the love of Mike and Ike be in haste Angelinia."said the aide decamp very impatiently.

"Francis Turner if you hury me, I shall be obliged to demand you to leave the room."answered she angrily, and with a resumption of the imperial dignity she had partially abandoned.

"I'm silent, Angelinia."...

"Keepsilent then.Now Captian Penrod y u are one of the famous boyscout heroes of all the Abbiannian armies, a great f avorite o f the Vivian Girls, and a full fledged rose of boyscout civalry better than that of any knight of old.At Jennie Vivian you were inside the Insurgent lines doing duty as a spy. You were rescued by b me from two Professional spies from an attic.First question was this not so!"

"Tha t should be positively for a Glandelinian court martial to bring full proves if I should happen to be captured."

"Unfortunately you have evaded the first question.Also taking advantage of the hospitality of some of the Vivian Girl Princesses and the kindness of Emperor vivian who had pledged his honor that you should be delivered up to the proper aurthorities as soon as you were able to be moved you escaped his costudy.Second question?Is this true."?

"I was never wounded, under no pledge, was not a prisoner inn their hands, nor was I ever paroled."

"You have unwisely and foolishly evae evaded the second question.You are on the staff of Emperor vivian and you have been sent outto procure information for general Consentinian Aroburg.Third question.Is this true!"

"You have said it not I."

"Third question evaded.By your own que confession made to me you are a great christian spy making me very jealious of you.You have resorted to certain christian tricks to escape the penalty of your misdeeds, and have tried to make yourself better than the Vivian Girls or even me and others and make me a fool.Now fourth question indeed, would it not be fair for Glandelinians to capture you by resorting to a trick such as those you have practiced.?"

"I have played no trick.And yet it would depend on the trick."

"You have crasily evaded the fourth question.You have abused the sacred rites of hospil hospitality at Emperor vivians, and the Vivian Girls head quarters.should you regard it as anything more----fifth question, than man destroy man if you should be catured near the christian lines by a similar abuse of the sacred rites of hospitality."?

"That would depend on the circumstances of those lies."

"Why evade the fifth question hoob.All of them evaded as I supposed all of them would be, for a dirty forigner can no more avoid prevarication than he can avoid talking through his hat with a hole in it."

"Thank you indeed for the nad hn handsome compliment Miss Aronburg.I cannot forget that I am speaking to a little Lady and therefore I can make no answer." replied Penrod with gentle dignity as he bowed to the tormentor.

"That is more than I expected of a foriegner"said she a sligh red flush upon her fair little cheek assuring her victim that his rebuke had been felt. "I am a little girl, but before the girl I am what you never thought a Glandelinian girlscout always, having a cause though wicked dearer to my heart than anything save only a womans honor."

She spoke proudly and her head rested with imperia granduer on her neck as she uttered her impressive and startling words, which shocked and surprised Penrod and cut his heart like a knife.Gertrude turned traitor.How could it be.Was she mad?

"Now Captian Penrod, you understand myposition, and you understand your own position"she continued"I invited you to dine with me for a great purpose. The house is surrounded by Glandelinian cavarly.Captian Penrod I'll surprise you by telling you you are a prisoner among the enemy.I have captured you for them."

Long before the imperial and now imperious "gertrude an geline" announced the conclusion of the whole matter, Penrod had realized that he was the sole victim of a conspiracy, that he had been inti invited to dinner in order that she may cause his captu re.He had listened carefully to the fallacious argument embodied in the five questions, and had been and was prepared to refute it if the occassion required.He had no difficulty in percieving that he had gotten into trouble. The house was surrounded by three squadrons of glandelinian cavarly, and he knew from their uniforms they were the dreaded "Mangaboos"the fiercest Mic-Hollestinian-Zimmermannians there were.and he knew that either Gertrude was envious of him, or that he had not shown to her some causes to win her, or that she had all the time been pretending to be a christi n christian and was in secret an enemy.He was broken hearted over this, and yet never considered whether he was mistaken or not.If Gertrude Angeline truly had a double---- Nevertheless Penrod had cooly

and most decisively made up his mind n ot to be made a prisoner by her.He fel[illegible]34
he had been invited into the house under the guise of her best friend.He had
beliaved and thought her to be the best friend he had next to Violet and
her sisters.The girlscout leader had however all the time he knew her pretended
to cherish an excellent feeling, ammounting almost to love, tward him had always
treated him more than if he was a friend, always had accompanied him in his missio
helped him out as he had helped her out, and now here had detained him untill
the cavarly could be sent for.Because she was jealious of him the trap had been
set, and he had certainly fallen into it.. The circumstances were not at all
like those under which he had been accused of and whatever she had accused him
off his conscience therefore did not reproach him for any violation.

"You sure are a prisoner and mine, Captian "enrod,I repeat"said Gertrude
----"my prisoner if you please."

"Miss Aronburg, I have always before this cherished a feeling of admiration
and regard for all girls of Abbiaannia but r regret in the present instance
to be compelled to contradict you.You who have been so often aided n by me
as you have aided me called me a dirry foriguer.I am not your prisoner if
you will excuse me for daring to say you." replied Penrod cal mly.

"The whole house is surrounded by large bodies of Glandelinian cavarly"Added
she severely."What could you do to escape.It only remains for me to call
them in and end this scene."

"Is that so Miss Aronburg.Well allow me to also obsere observe that the
part which remains will be much more difficult than the part already performed.
I am not a prisoner and will not be taken."

"Am I to understand, captian Penrod that you propose to resist two hundred
and fourty men who stand ready to capture you?"demanded the girlscout with
a triumphant smile."

"Excuse me if I evade that question also for the present.Perhaps
i you will also fartherpardon me if in this most dofficult and dangerous
business ,I venture to dare ask you a few questions, which you will also
evade I suppose or answer as you please."

"With the greatest plasure I will submit to be questioned, captian
Penrod"answered she, with a merry twinkle in her eyes,which told how much she
still enjoyed the situation."

"Thank you Miss Aronburg.After all you have shown yourself by this action
to be one of those brawling girlscout Glandelinians who have done so much
to keep up the spirits of the chivalry in this dreadful war on the side of
Glandelinia by pretending that you are an Abbiaannian scout,and that your
Uncle is general Aronburg.You too I suppose are one of the feminine Don
Quixotes who have unsexed themselves in the cause of treason and child slavery
by charging with your lance at the wing of a windmill.Pretending to be a
friend of mine all the war down on the raft you----

"I never was on a raft sir and --besides"Listen to me interrupted Penrod
"You were on the raft and you deny it.You are absolutely crazy.You have
turned traitor and still now may say you even don't ever remember me at all."

"To day is the first day I ever saw you."

"I will not hear this if you will Angelinia"said the aide-decamp"Sir"
"he then exclaimed advancing tward the bold and ungallent speaker"your
foul little mouthwill be slapped till your blue in the face and----

"Stand Thwhere you are make believe aide-decamp"said Penrod, fiercely
as he pointed a pistol suddenly at his head."If you stir a step or open your
mouth again I'll kill you where you stand."

The boyscout was taken abq bxaback by this unusual and decided demonstration
and Penrod had a murderous flash in his eyes.The aide-decamp had no pistol
about him, and therefore Penrod was pretty well satisfied that he would
remain quiet untill it was safe for him to move.Judging from her looks
Gertrude seemed to be taking a slightly different view of the v sudden s change
of the situation .

"Excuse my unusually rud e words, Miss Aronburg"con inued the captian with
a gentle inclination of the head."But as this ixs your affair, I will thank
this little "gentleman" not to interfere.Shall I repeat what I said before?"

"It is not at all necessary Mr Penrod"she replied coldly.

"Well therefore, we shall proceed.First question.Did I correctly
state your position?""

"Is a little girlscout who strengthens the hearts of those who are fighting
for the full right to exist,"

"First question is now ef evaded"Interposed Penrod half tearfully."You
invited me to this house near the very enemys lines, and by the laws of hospil
hospitality which even the heathen respect you were impliedly pledged to treat
me as a friend, and not as a foe.Second question.Is this so?"

"Did you learn to respect the laws of hospitality at Empror viviens?"sneered
she.

"You have evaded the second question. I have never been unfaithful to any

friends.None of those things of which you accuse me of is true.To proceed
by your own confession you invited me to dine in order to make me a prisoner
after all these months of our going together as the best of friends and now
you intend to take my life by having me hanged as a spy by the enemy.I
don 't understand your method of this treachery Gertrude but if you sought
vo have me captured by a simple trick, would it not----third question---be
specially fair for me to escape you by sg trick."?

"But it is utterly impossible for you to escape"replied she, glancing
through the window at the big force of cavarly on the lawn.

Third question evaded my dear Gertrude.You are supposed to be a little
lady, and as such under orrin under ordinary circumstances you are ent t
entitled to be treated with the delicacy and utmost consideration due to your
sex.But as you have ceased to be a christian girlscout and are have proved to
b be actively engaged in the war on the side of Glandelinia, conducting
the business of capturing me if you can---under these circumstances after all
I have done for you would it not be entirely fair for me to treat you as a
traitor precisely the same as though you had not unsexed yourself and was a
Benedict Aronald!"

"You seem to have already forgotten what is due to a girlscout"replied she
her cheek flushed with anger.

"Fourth question evaded.

"Sir I decline to hear any more of this course abuse."exclaimd she
stamping her foot.

"You will have to indulge me for one moment more, and I will endeavor
as much aspossible Miss Aronburg to avoid talking through my nose and making
pretensions as a hero of the christian army, or a small piece of cheese.Perhaps
youcall yourself a lady, but you are not.You are a she devil in human form."

Perhaps of course the imperial little beauty thoughtbthat these expressions
borrowed from her own elegant discourse were not especially refined for a
little girl to use but she made no ak acknowledge ent of the fact.

"Your silence consents, thank you.Miss Aronburg you speak with treasonable
contempt of what you pleased to term"Christian tricksW" at the same time
you were thrown into convulsions of laughter by the apprent success of one
of your own fiendish tricks.N ow per it me to ask whether you would equally
appreciate-- -fifth question----a trick quite as smart, or smarter than
your own?"

"You have insulted me long enough sir"replied she most haghtily haughtily.
"Now sir;;; --"

"You have evaded the fifth question.I have no more to ask.

"N ow sir, I willhand you over to your enemies"Said she moving a step
tward the door.

"But excuse me if I dare take the liberty to decline being handed over
to my enemies."said Penrod s tepping between her and the door, and now occupying
a position between the girlscout, and the disconfited boyscout of her own.

"Mr Penrod what do you mean?"demanded the girl, her bosom heaving with angry
emotions, as she found herself confronted by the young boyscout officer, who
looked as firm and as immovable as a mountain of granite.

"I meant what I said, and much more than that."answered he, with an emphasis
which she could not fail to understand.

"Sir I demand to be allowed to pass out the door."

"I positively forbid you to dare approach that door.Do so at your
your peril."

"Sir"gasped she, almost overcome by her angry passions."

"Miss Angelinia Aronburg."replied he bowing politely.

"You are no gentleman."

"When I first met you when you rewcued me from the attic with the snakes
I regarded you as a lady, as my heroine and thought you was one of the
brightest ornaments of your sex.What I think now I shall keep to myself."

"You are driving me mad."

"I do not care, though I fear you have been tending in that direction for
the last hour."

"Major Francis"Cried she turning to what was known as her aide-decamp"Will
you stand there like a statue ad permit me to be un insulted in this manner!"

"Major Francis will stand there .If he dares to move hand or foot or
open his mouth to speak I will blow his brains out.He is a villain and a
traitor as you, and of courseche is a cringing coward."

"The Major boyscout winced under these strong words but there was death
in the sharp snapping eye of Penrod, and he had not the course to even make
the slightest movement, or even speak.nd and h perhaps also he thought
that as the girlscout had insisted on managing the affair herself it was
quite proper that she c should be indulged to the end.

"I will not endure this one second longer!"exclaimed Gert Gertrude, and she took another and more determined step tward the door for the purpose of calling in the Glandelinian troopers.

"Stop Miss Aronburg."said Penrod, suddenly poiki pointing opistol at her head with his left hand, while that in his right was ready to dispose od the " aide-de-camp."

"Is it absolutelypossible that you can raise your weapon against a girl who once has been your best friend!"cried she shrik shrinking back from the gaping muzzle of the pistol.This to him was a surprise as Gertrude had never feared a dozen pistols.

"Let us understand each other ,Miss Aronburg.You never was a friend or you would not have treated me like this.I am not to be captured.If you attempt to leave the room or call in the Glandelinian soldiers, I will shoot you as gently and considerably as the deed can be done, but I willshoot you as surely as you stand there, and I stand here." He cocked the pistol,and she heard the click of the hammer.She stood in mortal terror of her life, utterly unlike the brave Gertrude Angeline she really was.Was she the original?

"You forget that I am a little lady."said she in tones of alarm.

"I did not forget it untill you had forgotten it yourself."answered Penrod. "You have abused and insulted me after all.I had done for you.Under the long nearlyltwo years of more than perfact friendship you are not turnin g suddenly against me and attempting to hand me over to my enemies who will put me to death as a spy whether I am reallly one or not.Your treachery has been a dreadful shock to me, and I must confess that I am terrible upset an d heart broken.And yet did you thin k notwithstanding that you would be able to drop me gently into the arms of the Glandelinian soldiers out there, so that I would be hung for a spy?If you insist on persuading your dreadful plan to the end it will surely and positively be death to you or to me.I am not at all willing to die for any Glandelinian girlspy or scout and especially not for one who is seeking my life by such treachery.It would grieve me to shoot on e so far and fascinating as you, and especially after what I thought we were between e ach other, and I should and would remember it to the very end of my days, but my duty to myself and even my country requires the sacrifice,and I would shoot you if it broke my heart."

"Are you in earnest, Cantian Penrod?"asked she still struggling under the violense of her extreme emotions.

"Angelinia"said the aide-decamp.

"Silence dog ."Added Penrod sternly."Miss Aronburg I am more than in earnest.The situation has changed.And would you like a good photographer to preserve the scene for future inspection?"

"You surely would not kill me after all the friendship I have shown you in the past."?

"I would, as you would kill me by handing me over to those cavarly men ."

"But the soldiers are impatient outside, and they may come in without my call."suggested she glancing at the window while her muscle in her frame shok with terror indeed unlike Gertrude of old.

"If they do it will surely cost you your life, unless they are more reasonable than you are."

"Good heavens, you mean to murder me."

"No I do not mean to murder me, but you mean to allow yourself to murder your once upon a time boyfriend.When I fire it will be froma solemn sense of duty only for your Glandelinian cutthroats would hang me to the nearest tree if they knew as much of me as you do."

"Then what in the world shall I do!"asked she wildly, as she looked desperately around the room.

"Now you are reasonable.Let one of your followers bring you pen ink and paper."

She ordered a boy who had waited on the table to bring the required artiales and Penrod gave him a charge to be very discreet as he left the room.In less than a minute he returned with the writing materials, and laid them on the table.This boy was even more terrified, than the girl or her aide-decamp and therefore there was no need of fearing that he would venture upon any bold enterprize.

"Now my dear Major Francis sit down at the table."said Penrod very sternly and giving him an awful black look.""You will remain where you are miss Aro Aronburg. "

"And what am I to do!"asked the boy Major .

"You will write what I dictate.Did you call this Glandelinian cavarly!"

"I did."

"Then you are really a Glandelinian boyscout helping your mistress with a vengeance and you are a worthy officer of his Infernal Majesty and I'll warrent there is not another such little culprit in my view."

"That is a personal insulat for which I will---"

"Silence sir.Who commands the cavarly outside."?

"Colonel Turpo."

"How many men has he."?

"Five hundred."

"Five hundred."Yes."

"Yes five hundred."

"Funny it takes five hundred to capture a boy.What was your design ?"

"To help her make you a prisoner.It was her plan all through."

"Now write.'Colonel; The matter upon which I called you was all a mistake. Your service shall not be required and you will retire from the house without delay'.Sign it Majoy major as you please."

Penr d Penrod looked looked over his shoulder to satisfy himself that the major wrote what he said, and nothing else.

"I hope it will be probable that wemay get through this business without shooting ei either one of you."added Penrod as the scribe folded up the n ote."

"Give the paper to the boyscout."

"Go to the front door boy and deliver this note to the Colonel in command of the Five Hundred."continued Penrod.

"Yes sir."

"But here stop a moment.."

"Yes sir."

"You remember you are not to say a word to him."

"If one of those Glandelin ian soldiers should come in to the house by front or rear it will cost your mistress and her aide-decamp their lives."

"I hope not sir."

"Do you understand me boy."?

"Yes sir.They will not com in .I will see to that."

He departed on his mission Penrod still stood in the attitude for action and Angelinia and the aide-decamp surely looked as cheap and crestfallen as though they were surely lost soule.They waited with even more impatience than the boyscout officer for the departure of the christian cavarly both of them fearing that some unfortunate accident might bring the desperate young boyscout to the execution of his horrible threat.TnThe colonel outside luckily was notof an inquiring mind so the clatter of horses feet and the clanking of sabres were heard again and the cavarly dashed down the road to more hopeful scenes. Penrod returned the pistols to his belt as he listened to the sounds of the retreating Glandelinian cavarly.This action on his part seemed to afford Angelinia and her aide-decamp an immense relief.Death no longer stared them in the face, and both of them began to grow bold again .

"Now Miss Aronburg wys when you see your good uncle General Aronburg again you will have a fine story to tell him."said Penrod.

"I shall not likaly tell him of it."

"And why not?"

"Because I have no Uncle."

"Then thank God general Aronburg is free of you."

"Just the same I think we have obtained some very new ideas concerning christian dog boyscouts to day."Added Gertrude spitefully"I had supposed we Glandelinians alone make war on women and children but it appears to be absolutely true of your set too."

"Pray am I to regard you as a woman or as a child"?Miss Aronburg?"asked Penrod."Or as both.???"

"I sure hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you hanged."Exclaimd she with"Thempleasshd Ampliment of a woman rather than of a child." laughed Penrod.

"How long before wecshall be rid of your undesirable presence captian Pen nPenrod.?"

"How long will it take your orderlies to bring up the horses on which I saw you arrive?"

"Not less than ten minutes if that will hurry your departure the horses shall be brought up instantly"replied she directing the waiter present to give the orderlies the necessary orders.

"Thank you Miss Aronburg.May I troublevyou also to get ready to accompany me?"

"Accompany you sir.?"

"I did not regard myself entire safe yet."replied Penrod takingon e of the pistols from his belt."Before I am out of sight my friend the major may feel justified in calling for the cavarly again ."

"They are five miles off, or will be by the time you have started "Said the boyscout major.

"I do not believe you.When I fall among people who are as sharp as you are I always sue use extraordin ary precautions.It is also part of my purpose that you should go with us my dear Major."

"Go where?"demanded the boy intensely alarmed.

"I will not trouble Gertrude to go any farther than the farm house where I left my h - horse.In regard to yourself I shall have to insist upon you going with me to headquarters."

"Why so?"

"You are a traitor too of the blackest stamp and it is quite proper that you should be attended to before you have done any more mischief."

"You are quite mistaken Captian Penrod."I am."

"I will pledge myself not to preven t your escape."Interposed Angelinia apparently unwilling that the i aide-decamp should say too much.

"Excuse me if after what happened I decline to trust even you Gertrude."

"This is insolent sir."

"It is that I will admit."said Penrodas he picked up the letter which the major has had read with so much astonishment.It was a blankshet but the direction on the outside was in a girls handwirting, evidently Gertrudes. It was nothing but a blind to afford a reasn reasonable pretense for the aide-decamps speedy departure.Penrod put it in his pocket for future referance.

The horses are ready Penrod."said Gertrude.

"So am I but you are not."

"My hat and shawl are in the entry"replied she sullenly.

They passed out of the house when she had robed herself for the ride.Penrod assisted her graciously upon her horse.

"Where is your aide-decamp or the major?"asked he turning to the spot where where he had stood but a moment before.Gertrudes reply was a silvery laugh which was a sufficient explanation that he had taken himself off.

"So much so much the beter"said Penrod."Good morning Gertrude"He added as he walked rapidly up the road in the direction of the farm house.

By this sudden and un expected change in the drama she was so surprised and taken ab ack that she could not find words for reply.And she did not know whether the movement boded good or evil, whether the boyscout had gone in persuit of the aide-decamp, or to the place where he had left hischorse.Penrod however when he discovered that the " aide-de-camp had escaped him was afraid totrust himself to ride along with Gertrude which would too surely betray his movements to a persueing force of Glandelinians, f the boy traitor could find on e in th the near neighborhood.Therefore he had decided that it would be safer for him to walk and then he could avoid the public road if it bef became necessary for him to do so.He would indeed have been glad to hand over both the treacherious scoundrels over to the military aurthoritins for punishments as traitors and deserters or for giving aid and comfort to the enemy, he wou they b th would have been a great danger to him on the road.As e ents often happen for the best he consolted himself with the belief that the traitors escape was not the worst thing that could have happened.He walked rapidly untill he obtained his horse.Whatever his late "friends had done"to secure his capture he was not molested on the road neither did he discover any persuers behind or anywhere near him.His horse was fresh after the long rest he had had, and Penrod rode at brea k neck sped till he reached the headquarters of general Nemo. On the way, after hr carefully arranged in his mind the information he had obtained he could not help thinking over the exciting events of the early morning, and indeed he was broken hearted to think that Gertrude had so treacheriously decieved him.Besides her condi conduct had been very strange. Up to now she had been such a loyal girlscout leader, now she was apparently in fu ll sp sympathy with the enemy.It was a sudden change if it was a change at all.One think wanting Penrod was so upset that it never came to his mind whether he was mistaken or not, and that something might be out of the ordin ar r or that Gertrude might have a double.But to Penod Gertrude nowlikre a lobster had a boyscout at her head and it seemed to him quite impossible to tell what a girlscout or a lobster would do, with a boyscout aiding. Penrod had after seprating from "Gertrude" had again met her in that house and the best solution which he could give for the matter was that the aide-decamp might have xonverted her from one side to the other.As this seemed to be a satisfactory exp; explanation of the singular conduct of the fighting girlscout leader

he was satisfied with it and gave the subject no further consideration.There fore he felt like a boy who had lost his sister by death.His ride was not so long as it had been in the morning, for the army had advanced some miles and therefore in a few minutes if not longer Penrod reported his information to the general and gave him advise.Then he also told the story about the attempt which had been made to capture him and in the course of his narrati ve involved Gertrude Angeline in trouble and dishonor.The general was not a little shocked at the story, and hoped that other boyscout officers who were invited to dinner by fair girlscouts of the enemy, and then entrapped would resort to similar strategy.But just then the information which Penrod brought was the mostinteresting and valuable part of the proceeds of his trip, and the general was soon busy in the study of his maps in the new light he had obtained.

"Well Penrod you sure have done most beautifully very admirably, and have fully justified the selection of you for the important and difficult positions to which you have been assigned by Violet, and her sisters""""""" said the gen r l general."""")(

"Penrod bowed but he did not feel happy as his memory still lingered on Gertrude.

"I'm accomplishing one more task to night general.I'm going to ride to y the main headquarters of the army give my compliments to general Aronburg, ask him whether Gertrude Angelinia reallly is his neice, tell him the affair and inform him that I have dis covered Myletzes movements."

Then Penrod saluted the general and securing a fresh horse urged forward tward the generals main army.He found the commander in chief still in the saddle, and delivered his message and congratulated his friend with advises to follow up the work and u to employ general Beardstown whih had been sent for ward to report to him in this wor] if the condition of his own troops required it.Then he asked;"Your Excellency,is Angelinia Aronburg, who calls herself Gertrude Angaline reallly your Neice."

"Indeed she is"he answered."And I'm mighty proud of her."

"You won't be after what I tell you"said Penrod, and he gave the full story.The general could not believe it, and though he could not understand it he said"I''ll investigate this, and if she comes I'll have to hold her prisoner.But are you sure it was she."?

"Positive."

"Couldn 't she have had a double posing as her?"

"Impossible "answered Penrod."

"Well its my duty and I'll have to detain her untill the mystery solves out."

Penrod made his salute, and was riding off thinking very sadly over what had just occured and was fully absorbed in his thoughts; and softly crying to himself when a girls voice pronounced his voice.

"Why Penrod I was afraid you'd never return."Said the voice"Why didn't you meet me at Heidi's Crossroads as we proposed"said a girlscout officer urging forward her horse to intercept him.

Penrod looked at her,and was not a little surpised to recogni ze Gertrude Angeline, who he knew should have been the numerous number of the girlscout staffof Violets divisions.Perh aps it was fortunate for Penrod Penrod that he had already faithfully finished his errand or the appearance of the "girl traitor" would have forever driven it from his mind.

"Miss Angelinia Aronburg

"Exclaimed him very coldly hardly able to believe the evidence of his own senses. For she must have flown over since his experience with her and her uniform was again altered.It was plain to him after all that he had she had not been fully converted to the Glandelinian cause by the blandishments of her aide-decamp but he was but she was now occupying a worse and more sinful and disgraceful position, in Penrods estimation than to have stood square up with the Glandelinians.It was most disgustful and audacious in the Girlscout to hail him after what had occured at that manison, and Penrod now regarded her not only as a Glandelinian but as the most dumbheaded scout he had ever met.

"The same my dear boy."Replied she familiarly."Ride on and I will go with you a short distance to hear the news.Did you succeed in your mission.Did you find violet, and her sisters.For I did not."

"I'm sorry to same we are both out of luck."replied Penrod coldly.

"Evans is a brave fellow, and a splendid captian general.You looked as if you had met a warmreception somewhere."

"Rather."

"You seem tired or upset Penrod.Can't you talk decently?"

" I can't n and do not like to talk at all to you."answered Penrod bluntly.

"To me.!What in the world is the matter Penrod!" demanded the girlscout with apparent surprise.

"Plenty of matter indeed.How does it happen that you are here.I thought you would be arrested when you came in."?

"Why shouldn't I come back here.I arrested."

"After the awful affair this morning/"

"Affair. What do you mean!"

"He looked at Gertrude as if he thought she was possessed.He believed she had absolutely lost her memory for she did not seem to remember about the advanture at the manison with the side-decamp. Indeed Penrod was so completely bewildered that if the mountains around him had suddenly commenced rising up and down as if during an earthquake he would not have been more surprised and if the trees, horses tents and houses and myriads of men all about him would have suddenly turned bottom upwards and the whole order of nature had been revr reversed he would not have been more dumb founded.He was entirely satisfied on full reflection that the event of the earliest part of this morning morn ing had been a reality, indeed entirely satisfied that Gertrude had been a party to the infamous conspiracy by which shecand her side-decamp had sought to capture him and turn him over to the Glandelinian aurthoritids and the unblushing impudence of her in denying it now passed his comprehension.

"I think surely you must have been having night mares, Penrod"said she with a light laugh.

"Either I am or you are, I will not pretend to say which at all"Replied Penrod, almost convinced by the words, and especially by the easy assurance of the girlscout leader b that no attem t attempt had been made to capture hij him that no such person as Gertrude Angelinis had an existance. But of course any traitor would deny the guilt that was always easily to be expected.It was surely not to be supposed that she would dare to engage in such a dreadful scheme as that which he has just been a victim of, and then confess her p participation in it.Gertrude had actually returned to the christian lin es and had the courage anew to take herplace in the ranks of the defenders of the Abbiennian cause even while she was not only in heart but openly engaged in the servious of Glandelinia which was treason and rebellion.

"Now Penrod what ails you talking to a friend like me."Continued Gertrude "For som reason or other it seems to bepositively that you are trying to pick a quarrel with me."

"I cannot be any friend to a girlscout who is not only a secret enemy to her own country, she being an Abbiennian too, and who also turned out to be treacherouzs"replied Penrod stifly, and with a great display of dignity.

"Why Penrod,I'm surprise to hear you say such things.I don't even understand what you are talking about."

"Don't understand me Miss Aronburg!"Penrod began to be stern and savage.

"Upon my word, Cross my heart and hope to dis I don't"Protested the girl earnestly."If you who is supposed to be such a faithful friend of mine insist on picking a qurral with me, a girlscout, and you a foriegn boy pray tell me what is it all about....."

"This is all idle talk Miss."

"You have insolently accused me of being a treacherous enemy to my coul country."The girlscout began to be slightly indignant and there were tears in her eyes now.

"Most distinctly I accuse you of it."

"That's a very grave charge."

"I am positively aware of it, though I'd give anything if I was mistaken, and I speak advisedly when I make it.If I had met general Haidi Mylstre himself within our lines ,I should not have been more astonishedthan I was to see you after what has happened."

"Penrod, will you be so kind and good as to inform me clearly what has happened!" demanded the accused girlscout manifestating no little excitement.

"At the nearest possibly coming opportunity I shall do so before a court marshall.I must sadly inform you you are under arrest.I hav have my pistol ready if you resist."

"Why what do you mean.What have I done Penrod tha t you should act so and point a pistol at me!"

"Have you any doubt whatever in regard to my meaning."?

"Upon my word and honor as a girlscout, and a little lady I have not the remotest idea of what you mean."

"Miss Aronburg I'm returned returning to your Uncle with you and will denounce you as a traitor.Just this morning you told me general Aronburg is not your Uncle."

"I never said such a thing.And Penrod those are words ad actions which even no man can use to me with in impunity."replied Gertrude indign antly."I shall hold you personally responsible for them, and especially for you, who are supposed to be my dearest frien d, putting me under arrest for nothing whatever and having the insolence of pu pointing a pistol at me.If I so desire I'd get away any how.I'm afraid of no pistols."

Something struck Penrod as queer.Before Gertrude cowered before his pistol like a cowardly cur, and now she defies him.

"I am willing to be held responsible for what I say and do."Answered Penrod, cooly."If you mean violence by that remark, I shallvnot be off my guard.I again tell you you are a traitor.Brank away if you dare and I will surely shoot you where you stand Miss Aronburg."

"Captian Penrod, you are a brave boyscout after all.You have proved yur self to be a brave and true boy"said Gertrude with more calmness."Are you sure you have not been hoodwinked by the enemy!"

"No."

"I think then you are too noble a boyscout to vilify me without giving me an opportunity to defend myself."

"Of course you will have an opportunity to defend yourself.Your Uncle told me to bring you to him.You'll be his prisoner too."

"You propose to denounce me as a traitor, you say."?

"I do."

"You are aware Penrod that I have many enemies among the foe which are worse than that of the enemy.I have more enemies than you think.All I demand is fair play."

"You shall have it Miss Aronburg, for deeply as you have injured me I assu assure you I have no personal ill will twards you.War is war and I have to do my duty as well as you.So I have to say again you are my prisoner."

"Thank you for so m c much but you say I have attempted to injur e you this early morning.I am not conscious of any such attempt, and never met you again since we first parted.I believe you have been double crossed and think it was me who did it."

"Miss Aronburg I'd know your face out of a hundred million.This is all idle talk while you assume that position----while you pretend to be ignorant of the matter with which I charge you, and I must decline holding any further intercourse with you at present.Let me add however that I will not make charges, even after you are confined untill I find more proofs against you and you are present to defend yo re yourself."

"So far your conduct is very honerable, if you would go a step farther and state most distinctly with what you charge me Penrod I should be greatly obliged to you."

"That is useless.From a girlscout like you have shown yourself to be I should not, and could not expect such duplicity as you exhibit in pretending to know nothing about the charge.Either you are trying to avoid consequences or your hardships have made you turn mad."

"I have pne pledged you my fullest honor that I am am perfectly in ignorance of what you mean, that I am not conscious of having given you any offense such less done anything which can justify you in calling me a treacherous traitor."

"Do you know a boyscout ---your aide-decamp-"called Francis Turner!" demanded Penrod.

"Of course I certainly do not.You should be perfectly aware, since my aide-decamp was killed George Zimmermann is my aide-decamp."

"This morning you told me to my face you never was on the raft."said Penrod.

"I did not."

"Good heavens how you start in telling falsehoods Miss Aronburg."But come general Aronburg wants to see you."

He brought her to the generals headquarters, and then what transpired within was not known but later Penrod had put spurs to his steed, and was dashing along the road leaving his prisoner to infer what he meant from her consotion from her denials if she needed anything to e enable her to explain the nature of the charge.Penod Penrod was excited ad and indignant that the traitor should attempt at such denials.It was almost incredible that she should have the boldness to pretend that she did not know what he was accusing her of.There was no room for a doubt or a mistake.Gertrude had positively recieved the blank letter, her aide de camp had positively gone after the Glandelinian cavarly, had positively sustained him in her attempt to capture him.It was not possible therefore that he had done the culprit any injustice. Thus assured that he had not wronged the girlscout, though he had left her crying bitterly, Penrod again turned his attention to the message which he was

to deliver to another general and urged forward his weary horse at his best speed.He found the troops of thismortion of the army preparing for a march.He delivered his message. Part of the army already was advancing, and even then Penrod could not forgath his experience and how he had left Gertrude crying.In fact he'd have given his right foot to know it was a mistake.But how could it be.He sure knew her face.The generals were doing much of their own reconnoitreing on this occassion, though the members of their staff were kept constantly employed.The enemy was seen moving in immense mass, Vivinia was falling back in good order from the regions of Sanitary Creek , but it seemed to be that at the same time the advance of the first corps of the enemy was coming into sight.General Graniser of Aronburgs army was too far in advance of the main body to make an attack upon the enemy to relieve ivinia. Elenor Creek was to have lain between the two armies and three half torn away bridge was already believed to be protected by the batteries which the Glandelinians had de planted to bar all approach in that way.The enemy enemy appeared to be advancing in two long columns on the west side of the creek, and were believed to be about fifty million man , and the brave christian general impatiently awaited the arival of the rest of the christian forces. It looked like a good opportun ity to fight a successful battle with Mylatze and he was der determined to cross thepon toons being buildided across the narrow part of the flood at the first opportunity.

"General the enemy are breaking into column and marching toward Somers"Wai said Penrod as he rode up from the point at which he had been surveying the movement on the other side of the creek.

"The enemy is on the advance then."replied the general.

Penrod and several officers of the military engineers were then sent forward to examine the creek in search of a ford by which to transfer the troops to the other side as soon as the force of rebels should be sufficiently reduced to justify an attack.The general chafed under the restraint which the circumstances imposed upon him but he was too prudent to risk an attack while the advantage was so strongly against him.A flooded ford was found near a mill, farther up where the creek was nearly a sea, and the officers reported the fact, but the arival of the main commanding general at this time prevented Wight Linger from ordering an advance.

"The corps must remain at thisplace untill the afternoon of to morrow"Said the general."Then I'll give the orders to cross the creek.The troops then must proceed some way up the stream and go over by the pontoon as to cross by the more is impossible because of the flood there.I'll have the fords examined by the staff officers.The outposts of the enemy were said to have been driven in after having been discovered but it won't be a necessary to proceed any further as the flood is too dangerous at this spot.I will complete the plan to morrow, according to the way My notice had made it."

In fact he had not made her a prisoner, because he knew Penrod was mistaken but he did not intend to do anything but let Penrod discover himself.

Some bodies of the weary troops had laid down to rest in cornfields where they had halted.The Glandelinian army was quite some distance away yet but nevertheless there was no rest for the general Aronburg and his staff, for it was evident that sooner or later a great battle was to be fought a battl battle on which the destinies of the Christian cause fully depended.If General Aronburgs grand Abbiennian army was defeated there would be nothing to stay the march of Mylatzes tward Angelinia Agathia.The fair fields too and the prosperous cities and towns north of Angelinia Agathia would then be open to them.The great heart of the southern Calverinia State beating timidly as the great horde of Glandelinians advanded advanced, sickened by previous and horrible disasters of all kinds, by fire and flood and so forth was already sinking into despondency and the bright hopes of the people seemed about to be forever crushed.It was no time for the brains of the army to slumber when that night came.

"We must obtain some sort of information."said the general that morning at eleven oclock after he had sent an iq aid to general Aronburg to announce his intention to attack as soon as possible.General Aronburg himself always wanted information for he never moved in the dark.His great brain and his eye too were twin brothers in all conflicts and movements of the army.That is why to w far he was never defeated.As no one seemed to wish to try anything Penrod and even Gertrudes aide-decamp George Zimmermann volunteered to procure the information desired, and left the headquarters for thispurpose.It was a long way to go, they had to cross by means of Gertrudes raft to get to the other side where the foe may be,and then it was found useless and even suicide to attempt to penetrate the heavy picket line of the Glandelinians in the farm fields and they descended a hill beyond a farm shed till they came to a long ravine through which flowed a considerable volume of water trickling in from the distant flood.

2This is our only chance."said Penrod in a low tone.

"That is so, but you know I am a foreigner and can only speak two languages. And too this looks like risky business."replied the German boy.

"Of course George if you are sure you are scared, I do not think you need to go through.You don't have y to you know."

"Oh indeed.I scared."He sneered."Far from it.Why my dear fellow I'll go through hell with you."

"Maybe you would, but I think it would be safer for us both to separate here."

"I agree with you."

"Then I will take a passage through this long ravine and you may see what you can find farther to the north or south.But look out that you do not step into the flood in this smoke fogwhereever it is coming from."

"Good.I'll be careful.Now be scientific ,my boy, we want to know the topography of the country as well as theposition of the enemy."

"Certainly, I believe I understand what is required."replied Penrod as he descended the steep bank of the ravine into the water.The banks of this new stream were of course occupied by the pickets of both armies,and his course led him through both of them.It being daylight, it was a extremely dangerous undertaking for he was just as much exposed to a shot from one as from the other .Fortunately the fog hide him from them.But Penrod however was a boy who had great and trying experience in this kind of business.He always had carried the reputation as a famous boyscout and spy, and had on numerous occassions brought in valuable information of the utmost importance to all various christian commanders, and also to Violet, and her sisters, and had once captured seven boys who had tried to disguise as they they.Indeed his skill in this particular branch had procured for him his unusual promotion and his present honerablepositionon the staff of Violet, and her sisters.But he was now to undertake a fearful risk--more fearful absolutely than any he had ever attempted before, not from the spying to the foe, but also from danger of surprises from fire; or from a break of somepoint deming the flood and letting a torrent of water upon him, but the greater the danger, the more valuable the sergi service rendered, and the result of the coming battle might also depend him upon his successes with which he discharged his difficult duty.He wore his long boots, and therefore continued to feel his way on the verge of the flood stream without going in beyond his depth.Fortunately for him the ravine was fringed with thick masses of trees which shil shielded him from being discovered by the contending pickets, but nevertheless the slightest sound or discovery would expose him to the fire of the men.In many places the trees formed an arch over the stream and the smoke fog was so intense that he could hardly distinguish an object six feet from him, and it was becoming suffocating down there.He did not walk, he crept to keep under the pall as much as possible, putting his feet down as a cat does when she is on the point of pouncing on her prey.After advancing a short distance, the fog began to clear before a breeze and then he suddenly heard low voices on the banks above him.He was passing the first line of pickets--- that of the christian army at that.His progress was very slow but he succeeded in his purpose without drawing the fire of the guards.He was now between the two lines, and he quickened his pace a little.While he was thus creeking through the shallow water he discovered in the partial fog a dark colored object before him in the form of a girl.He paused for at first he was undecided that it was a human figure of a girl---who had also stopped, but whether friend or enemy he was not sure..He feared too it might be Gertrude Angeline who might had escaped and was not close to the foe lines.

Whoever the girl may have been she stood stock still, and therefore did Penrod also stand stock still.Apparently too Apparently too each may discovered the other at the same instant, and there was not the slightest doubts that each were disturbed by the same doubts in regard to who the other might be.It was a dead lock, to all intents and purposes for neither was willing to advance and betray himself or herself to the other.Penrod had his automatic pistols but if he was compelled th to shoot the stranger the noise of the shot would call forth the fire of the pickets on both sides.

Therefore it was at not at all for either party a very handsome situation and therefore they stood like black statues each waiting for a movement on the part of the other.The only thing possible that Penrod could do was to retire in the direction he had comebut if he did so he would fail in the enterprize which he was now being engaged, and without the slightest doubts bring danger to general Aronburgs army in the coming battle.Therefore he was not intending under any conditions to go back----for t if the worst came, he could take the chances of shooting the stranger it she or he appeared to be an enemy, and then throw himself down under the bank of the ravine ravine to shelter

himself from the fire of the pickets.He therefore was compelled to wait a reasonable length of time for the dark girlaiha dressed stranger to say or do something, but as she seemed to be created with even more patience than Job himself, Penrod decided to take the chances himself.

"Friend or foe!"demanded Penrod in a low tone, for he was compelled to start the conversation and then to be bring it on between themselves.

"Friend of course I'm ."Replied the other.

"Penrod thought this strange language for the other spoke in in plain english.

"Speak your own tongue if you have it in Abbiennnin"demanded Penrod surely."I'm not english and cannot understand a word you say."

"The answer then came in broken Abbiennnian. Poor Penrod thought this very strange indeed.

"All right, English, whichside do you belong to friend!"asked Penrod deming the strangers language rather indefinite.

"To the Christian side In course I'm."replied the stranger, with refreshing promptness. There was no non-sen ital about her as might have been expected half way between the lines of the two armies, and therefore Penrod was therefore prety well satisfied that she was what she claimed to be providing she was at not Gertrude Angeline, whom he would fear here now more than any place else.

"Where are you going!"

"That's rather a very difficult question, Captian Penrod my dear fellow."responded the stranger."You are evidently at your old common boyscout tricks captian."

"Who are you!" demanded Penrod not a little surprised, andalso completely disconcerted at be n being recognized in his present situation.

"Don't you know who I am!"added the stranger, an advancing very cautiously tward the boyscout.

"I sure do not.I even haven 't that pleasure!.!!"!

"Yes you have though its rather smoky with fog for a person to even make out his best of friends.I am Angelinia Aronburg.. ::.. ."

""""Are you indeed !" exclaimed Penrod, taking all aback by the sudden announcement . Indeed he would rather have met any of the Manleys or even Wyletze under the circumstances.He could not to save his own life imagine what Gertrude Angeline couldpossibly be doing in such a place at such an hour of the late morning unless she was crawling into the enemys lin es to take a part with the foe in the coming battle.He was sorely and desperately tempted in his sudden fear and rage to shoot her down on the spot, and this while he removed a dangerous and treacherous obstacle in j his own path ride the country of a traitor and a dangerous enemy,,, but Penrod had never had the nerve to do even this though under the present circumstances he might have been justified.

"Miss Aronburg you are something strangely akin and mysterious to me."Said he.

"So I am to all who know me."Replied the girlscout."Come boy let us sit down and talk this matter over.If we speak low, the sentries will not hear us.You are a boyscout after my own he heart, and I desu desire y to have you understand me better."

"I understand you very well Miss."

"No indeed you don't, you just now told me I was myd mysterious to you." chuckled the girl.

"I meant to say I understand your object--- that you aren traitor to your cause and coun try."

"Is that so.Listen boy, you never made a greater blunder in your life in calling me a traitor."

"I do not seewhere a blunder has been made."

"You'll see it sooner or later in the course of ten minutes, if you will hear me."

"It is useless for me to hear you.I shall not believe a word you say after what passed between us this morning."

"What was that my Penrod."?

"Didn't you deny all knowledge of the affair at the mansion this morning!"

"Pon my word I did not."

"You did not?"

"No indeed."

"You sure must have the worst memory of any person in this country.

"That may be according to you."

"Did you when we met the second time after that exp rience quarrel"

"This is the second time we meet."Interposed the girlscout.

"Indeed. You sure have a very bad brain.I denounced you as a traitor."

"I was not not kind of you to did that."Laughed the girlscout.

"Perhaps not but it was true.You didn't know what I meant you hadn't the least knowledge of the affair only this morning.!"

"Of course not."

"And didn't I place you under arrest.!"

"Oh I do remember that."said she."But you did no one else."

"Didnt gener l General Aronburg confine you in his headquarters after I took you ther e!"Asked Penrod feeling as if he had seen a ghost.

"No, you had no proof of the charge to brought against me.They all believe you are seeing an optical illusion, or my double.That's why I am here.You are double crossed by me, in another person.I want to catch her or him."

"You denied that general Aronburg was your uncle this morning."

"I did that in deed.And I suppose I didn't see to the poking of the raft either.Didn't Jean fall for Jack in rescuing him.I sure remember that."

"Very good I have good hope of you at last.Now can you recall the event to which I alluded!"

"Perfectly not."

"That you in connection with the aide-decamp Francis Burar attempted to procure my capture by the enemy.!"

"I acknowledge no such impeachment but the affair might be susceptible of a different construction from that you put it."

"I think not."

"Upon my word of honor it is my dear friend Penrod.I come here with the purpose to prove it and clear myself, an d I am sure you will agree with me. After you left me at the cross roads, near Haidi's junction we did not meet again at all untill you accused me in the christian lines.I can have it proved by Dolores and every one else.They were with me when I returned. And besides;----""

"First you will explain to me then how you hav happen to be in this ravine at this hour of the morning!"asked Penrod.

"I could explain it to your satisfaction my dear captian Penrod, but you must escuse me for the present."

"I can't as excuse you and we may as well have it out now as at any other time!Either you are a rebel, or have turned one or I and you both have been double crossed by your double..In the words of Emp ror „vivan if we are what we were the second meeting this morning in that house there is an irre irrepressible conflict between u s.If y so you have caught me, and I have caught you.I don't propose to shirk the responsibility o of my position, but I suppose on e of us must die or be severely wounded to insure the safty of both.If you have really a double, and you are the original Gertrude Angeline then I owe you an p ology for my insults to you this morin morning."

Penrod cocked his pistol.He had already made up his mind in regard to the presence of Gertrude Angeline at this place.His theory was that Gertrude had also always been a spy girl like himself a spy boy both w are professionals that at the time she and he or her double happened to meet she was pasing over from the christian to the enemy lines either for the purpose of bringing to general Wyletze information in regard to the strength andposition of Generl General Aronburgs fr forces or she was really notthe traitor and was there for the purpose to try and see why she was accused and who her double may be.He really began to see the light now.Gertrude in the christian lines had a different way of speaking always t than the one who had arrested him that morning early.

"For heavens sake, Captian Penrod don't fire off that pistol accidentally" exclaimed she as she heard the click of the pistol."You'll bring the fire of the enemy pickets, n and of our own too upon us.Those dawn Glandelinian dogs are too close."

There could be nodoubt of the sincerity of the girl in the use of these words. And therefore Penrod judged from what he had seen of her when he pointed a gun at her in the house that she was one of those persons who were born to creep, but by some blunder had walked upright and thus dec ev decieved the world in regard to their true character. She there had been a cringing coward as Penrod had twic twice before had occassion to she rave.When he scolded her in the christian lines and even pointed a pistol at her there, she did not even wince but said that she would make the br e break anyway if she choose to do so.Therefore which was the otherGertrude Angeline, and was this one now with him the true good one.He felt as if he was trying to solve a puzzle which was almost impossible.

"I have no wish to shoot you Angelinia Aronburg.If you are truely the one I know you to be from the start I would much rather be spred that pain of

shooting one whom I loved as well as the true one."said Penrod."Either it was you the duplicate who have crossed my path,and interfered with my plans, or other wise now you are the original and come to aid me.Will you explain everything so I can know whether I am right."

"I propose to explain everything Penrod and then we shall understand each other perfectly.You first said recently I said general Aronburg is not my uncle.I never said that.Why my own father and mother are living.He is the grands grandest uncle I ever had.and this morning you said I told you I never was on a raft.How ridiculious.You know yourself I never was off that raft untill we reached the lines.You are a Christian scout, and so am I.You are obtaining information, I am out to clear my good name before you.You are a true Christian scul, so am I.and any one who would even dare call us "Christian dogs"I'd shoot them down like cats."

"I hope I can believe you.I'll give anything if I made a mistake and you were not treacherious."

"Here's my pass, that will convince you."

"It's getting so dark from the smoke in the sky I can't see to read it."

"I will light a flasher .It will not be seen in this ravine."

Gertrude handed him a paper and struck a match against the inside of her stiff girlscout hat.

"Now read quick."""

Penrod read:

"The bearer Captien General Angelinie Aronburg, sister of Anna Aronburg of the Vivien Girl Princess Brigades of girlscouts is one of the best and truest and as well most loyal girlscouts ever known and as such entitled to recieve honor, protection,and respect respect and assistance from all officers, generals, and soldiers of the Abbiennin.

Signed,
Violet, Joice, Angeline,
Jennie Catherine, Daisy, and
other authorities of the
vivien Girls.
Note written
in person by Hattie
vivian."

Seeing that this document was duly signed and countersigned by those high ho authorities and the date was within the current month and year, and also from the nature of it that Penrod was astonished beyond measure for now he had no doubt of the correctness of this safe conduct.It knocked his little theory all to pieces and he was now absolutely certain that he had misjudged Gertrude, and that in that hour of the morning just past, a duplicate of hers probably her double only in clever disguise had tricked him .

"Where are you bound now."

"I will go with you now if you'lo you'll trust me."

"Do you carry this paper with you."

"Always, my life would not be safe a moment without it."

"I should say your life would not be safe with it if it were discovered upon you within the Glandelinian camps.

"As long as I am careful there will be no danger on that score.I took good care of it.I brought it for the purpose to show you in case so happened to meet.If you still doubt me I'll prove further your mistake.Did that person whom you say looks like me speak like we do."

"I should say not."

"What did she say.?"

Penrod then told the whole story.

"That will prove that you were bamboozled"Said Gertrude.I want to get that vilest of all Christian enemies and I'll bet my right eye that duplicate is a boy.Are you satisfied Penrod"asked she showing her Rosary and prayer book which he had never seen her without."

"I am prfectly satisfied now but how could it be anyone can disguise as you to expot to entrap christian officers as shecor he did in that manison."

"My dear Penrod it was probably your fault.You fell into the trap by going with her into the house.That boy aide-decamp was either a part of the transaction or apparently was the main conspirator.Now that I understand the story you told me I will explain the second.You say the boys name was Francis Turner."I

"I do not know for sure"confessed Pajro Penrod."She called him some other name before that which I forgot."

"Well that doesn't help them.You of course know Miss Jennie Turner well!"

"Certainly I know her."

"She is a beautiful and brave little girl isn't she."

"There can be not the slightest doubt on that point but I suppose you will tell me next if you please how it can be possible if you think so how a person could double you.If I am not mistaken then the one who trapped me was your double."

"There can be no doubt on that point.I wish Miss Turner was here.She is a professional spy working for the Abbiennian Government, and if she had been with you when my double set up that little conspiracy and attempted to have you captured, Jennie would have captured her and her aide-decampinstead.On the fact she is sure a spy herself.Violet, and her sisters are not more through going spies, and she is fully in earnest in what she does.I was sorry and cried the day she left us."

"But you assisted her."

"Apparently only, there was no keeping her.Calverinia as it seems is literally handed over to the enemy as it were; as I supposed it would be; and therefore it is her privilige as well as it is her duty to get our country out of the scrape, which she could easily have done and will.Jennie regards me as her equal."

Penrod could not half or could not help thinking that she was more than right, but he did not give voice to his thought on this subject.

"Your double surprised me for I thought you even said early this morning that you never rescued me from the den of snakes where the enemy placed me for refussing to reveal where Jennie had gone."

"Undoubtedly I did and with the intention that you should not suffer for those professionals.You are aware that she planned the scheme of your rescue herself I was asked into it and I could not resist after what you had done for her and me.That doubles denial proves to you your mistake in taking me for a traitor to my country."

"I'm heartily sorry but how in the world could I do otherwise.She exactly looked like you and dressed like you and had hair and eyes like you.One thit thing now I realize which I paid no attention to before her voice did sound kind of mannish and not girlish."

"That proves again your mistake. "

"We value very highly the confidence of Jennie Turner."

"For her sake and my suffering country I surrender.And besides Jennie is a beautiful girl you acknowledge that.Well the Glandelin ian officers think so too, in another way."added she"In a way that they would give anything for her capture or destruction."

"They must be tigers of taste."was the comment Penrod deemed it necessary to make.

Jennie too is an enterprizing woman or girlscout I mean.To say to us we are Christian Dogs" in her face is like well to say as if I stepped on a rattlesnake in the dark.She takes a deep interest in all army movements and worms out of the glandelinian officers much valuable information, which I too, worm out for her for I need hardly tell you that the relations between Jennie and myself are of the pleasantest character."

"Like two lovers!"added Penrod.

"Yes, if you please.If she was only a boy."

"It seems to me that your double was using a very sexred relation for a very vicicuspurpose."replied Penrod whose fine sentiment was badly shocked at the thought of the disgrace he had almost caused his dearest friend Gertrude."I wouldn't want to be your double.We know the penalty for such. We do not shoot unsuccessful spies, either in their own uniform or in disguise, even but when they fix themselves up to look like some one else on our side its just too bad for them."

"We got to do it for the sake of our country Penrod."

"Go on Gertrude."

"Don't you understand it all now .?"

"I certainly do, Gertrude h"he said taking her hand"I realize what a grave mistake I have made in accusing you as a traitor.I even realize it enough to comprehend yourposition.I thank God and His Blessed Mother that not only is the mistake found out, but I never told any one except your Uncle."

"And he, believed it not either"said she."When I was brought there he told me of your suspicions and said "Penrod means well don't wory.He's been

declared to your double. I then proposed to make all efforts to either capture or shoot my double before he or she does any more mischief."

"Penrod in spite of himself was not now entirely satisfied with the situation, certainly not, with the purpose of Gertrude despite the commencement of her mission. It was to him idea too dangerous a stunt. Entering the enemys lines to shoot her treacherous enemy who made himself or herself looks look like her. It seemed incredible, but he knew he couldn't turn her ideas.

"Which way were you going going when I met you?!?!?!"asked he.

"I was going another way."replied she, with some hesitation as they heard suddenly suddenly other voices."If youplease we will separate."

"No"said Penrod sternly."If you are going to carry out your dangerous scheme we must go together. Afterwards you report to one guard, and I to another but whether the outcome of our [illegible] you [illegible] you [illegible] need me at an opportune moment. You know very well I have the strength of good sized man despite my age and size. We will go on together, or if not returning together, die together. But I'll not let you leave me. Your mission is more dangerous than mine."

"I don't know about that"said Gertrude. I am entirely safe within the rebel lines. If we have passed our pickets, which I believe were some of my own we have nothing more to fear."

"Her own pick pickets. This proved to him she surely was the good Gertrude and it cut him to the heart like a knife to think he had accused her as a traitor.

"I owe you an apology."said he.

"For what."

"For denouncing you as a traitor to your face and placing a pistol at your head."

"Oh forget it. How often have I faced pistols. Don't worry about your mistake. It cannot be helped. Supposing I had been a traitor you would have done your duty. Suppose I had been the one really who had tried to arrest you and turn you over to the enemy after all we have been together these years! You would have been perfectly justified to have shot me dead. We good as we are certainly are not perfect, and cannot help mistakes when we are deceived. Your treachero treacherious enemy disguised exactly as my double I suppose, unless he or she is exactly the same. But we'll find out later. I'm bent on capturing her or him or killing one or the other."

"So far I think we had better keep within the ravine."

"Very well but I saw swipsed a rebel safe-conduct and I know the counter sign."

"Is it possible!"Stammered Penrod.

"What possible!"demanded Gertrude smiling sweetly.

"That you have a real rebel pass."replied the bewildered boyscout gazing at her attentively, and surveying her from head to foot.

"Certainly."

To him he was more sure now for she wore the same now and bright uniform which she had worn when they always who went out scouting it was not the same the traitor or spy girl had worn when she took him prisoner, but her face had been the same, the eyes, the mouth were the same the hair was the same in cut and color, and Penrod in spite of the doubt which has still slightly assailed him was even now ready to make an oath that the one who had arrested him or tried to was not Gertrude at all.

"Are you still worrying about that on such a pleasant morning."Asked Gertrude with a pleasant and friendly smile.

"I can't get over it, even though I am perfectly satisfied Gertrude" replied Penrod, though he was still in a bewildered state of mind."I cannot help repeating I owe you an apology for the rude treatment to which I subjected you this morning when we met again in our lines. I am firmly convinced you are not the one I mistook you to be and I hope you will pardon my rough speech and sudden unfriendly manners, and for pointing the gun at your head."

"Most cheerfully, Captian Penrod."Here is my arm lovingly around you again "replied Gertrude evidently as much to please pleased to forgive as the accut was to be forgiven.

"I am satisfied now and do not feel so upset."

"But I am not."responded Gertrude.

"Why."

"Because I must get my double or she or he'll do a lot of damage to us yet. If he enters our lines and starts his work I'll be ruined. I must stop him before it is too late."

"Of course because of my mistake, and of the spy doing it so cleverly in

disguising as you I was still willing a moment ago to give my affidavit that you were the person. I surely was seriously mistaken as I was when I accused you as being a traitor. Surely we must get that double before he does any more damage at or traps others. By the way Gertrude. I found those in the house where she tried to make me a prisoner. I took them from her aide-decamp" And Penrod took from hispocket two strange passes which he had then from the aide-de-camp in the house and selecting the "christian one" handed it to his girl companion, "Is this document yours!"

"It sure is."replied Gertrude, glancing at the pass. "How did he secure this!"

"I do not know. Is this yours.""continued Penrod, handing her the other pass.

"I should say not. It's a Glandelinian pass of the highest order, and by gosh signed with my name on it"she said turning white. "Heaven be thanked you secured this. I never saw it before and have no occassion for a pass of this description. Where did you get the other."

"Your Aide-de-camp was forced to give it to me this morning"Laughed Penrod jokingly.

"I am sure he did not. My aide-decamp is George the German Boy. I have no Francis murner. But I'll have to destroy this rebel pass or if I'm caught with it within the Christian lines, my friends willthink I'm sure turning out to double crossing." And she tore it to shreds.

"Would you let me see your proper passes if you please!"asked Penrod.

"Certainly if you desire it."Replied Gertrude, and she produced them both with the remark that it was not necessary to waste the time to read the true one again, but Penrod wished it and she yeilded with a laugh. Penrod read both duc documents.

"What's that."sapi said Penrod suddenly springing to his feet with the papers in his hand. It was a shot or two from the pickets but there had been quiet all this time tillnow.. Penrod had thrust the papers into his pocket in the fear of a sudden onslaught of the pickets, but the alarm passed without any consequences, serious or otherwise.

"We are perfectly safe, Penrod."said Gertrude."I believe you did not give me back my papers."

"Here they are"replied he handing her back the papers. We are losing "We are losing the whole morning, and we had better move on. I am satisfied with the props prospect but I would not like to expose myself to the rebel pickets."

"As youplease we can go though this ravine without being seen or heard. But I am well known through the Glandelinian army, more than you are Penrod and therefore we both must use the most extreme caution. You know too how good I am at the guns Penrod."

"I sure do, and you will prove a useful friend to me."

"That is what I have been trying to prove to you. Perhaps even I ought to say that I actually hold a commission in in the Glandelinian boyscout cavarly also which enables me to stand absolutely square with our enemies while I give information to our own people and soldiers. But when I go to the command I disguise myself as a boy. You understand me.?"

"Perfectly. That'll make it better for me."

"I have told you what no other living person knows except my generals, though the highest aurthority that employs me has some conception of the very means by which I procure my information. I have also always trusted you because you are a boy after my own heart. What you did in the army so far endears you to me as if you were my own dearest brother. We are kindred spirits, and its proper that we should further understand each other, and make sure by investigations before we suspect each other of treachery because our enemies hamboozle us."

"I remember you now"said Penrod bitter bitterly. "You were the one hoodwinked not I. You were insulted by the one who pretended to be you either consciously or unconsciously. For if that girl claimed herself to be you there can be but little sympathy between us and her. Besides she was a coward and a brag and what did surprise me more than anything else, which did not make me think at the time was how she cringed so cowardly when I pointed the pistol at her in in that house. And You ever even winced before a cannon. She too told me more lies than even her dangerous profession desired or required. He even used the sacred features of yours for her own purpose purposes. We cannot be satisfied that untill we either capture your double or get her or him out of the way. Your entrance is easy now for us both, for you have a safe conduct from the aurthorities of both sides. That enables you to get all the information which has surprised me. Each pass seems to be neutralized by the production of the other and therefore the capture of that spy ought to be easy. It ispossible that you have procured it for the purpose of doing christian work in both ways, but just the same Gertrude we must be on our guard and run no risks."

Gertrude Angeline cautiously led the way up the ravine both of them creeping and crawling at a snails pace so as not to attract the attention of the pickets on the banks above them..Penrod would not have been very much surprised if Glandelinians had not suddenly surprised them and made prisoners of them both but he stood prepared for such an emergency and so did she, and had their pistols always at the ready for imidiate use, and if a scene occured she trusted and so did he to the darkness caused by smoke clouds high up and the friendly shelter of the ravine to promote his their escape. His highly respectable friend kept better watch however and they passed in safty through the line of the Glandelinian pickets and emerged from the ravine into a group of pines.

.If any numbers of Glandelinians would have set a trap to make them prisoners, and they would have had to fight for their freedom there would be no longer any need that they should keep upbetter guard for the campfires of the Glandelinians were to be seen in every direction.Only -Only a few rods from the spot where they stood there was a large body of Glandelinian-Chanian Scoudlier infantry bivouaking on the ground.

Penrod and both Gertrude were a prey to the most pa n painful doubts.Upper most in their minds was the wish to discharge with good purpose the difficult and most dangerous task which both had imposed upon themselves, and Gertrude was of the most valuable assistance to him.Her two passes one from each party in the great strife, proved nothing for or a g i against her.It was therefore utterlyimpossible to reach just the same a satisfactory conclusion in regard to his companions safty nevertheless, and he had told her it was not prudent to place herself into any situation where she could easily be captured.She had answered all she could do so far was to permit affairs to take their our own course, and to commend all in the Hands of god untill so e further development should enable both to act most intelligently.As they were now actually with in the glandelinian armies the conclusion of the whole matter must soon be reached.

"This is sure dangerous business."said Gertrude, as they stepped from the bank into the pine grove.

" Anyway wemust proceed with the utmost caution."replied Penrod nervously, as he gazed earn estly at his associate to obtain if he could any clue to her wiser purpose.

"If youconfide in mw Penrod, you and and I will be safe unt unless some sentinel takes it into his head to fire upon us, which is readily the only danger we may face."

"I think therefore we had better avoidthese camps and squads of soldiers as much as possible.Do you know where the main line of Wyletze's is?"

"Certainly I do not, neither do I wish to go so far."

"Is he fortified strongly."

"We might find out in a short time."

"How many men do you think he has?"

"That is what I wouldlike to know."

Penrod felt the same way.

"N ow follow me"said Gertrude----And whatever happens don't be alarmed."

Gertrude led the way through the grove of pine trees but they had advanced only a few paces before there came a loud cry"Halt who goes there?Friend or foe."

""Mcw.Meow.Meow."said Gertrude imita i imitating a cat to the finest perfect.

"Oh it's only a cat."said another sentry.It's all right.You were alarmed for nothing."

"It's all right" now whispered Gertrude but"but we got to me more cautious as they or w crawled through an open field beyonf the grove covered with high grass.

"I thought you said they know you very well.'"

"Not the sentries."

"Does your own Glandelinians know you we very well?"

"Certainly they do."

"If you know all about the situation and the force of the enemy, what is the use of goinglike this any further."

"Because you wear your staff uniform."replied Gertrude, rather confused. "And that is a mistake Penrod.It will expose yourself and me"Ad she showed the appearance of alarm."If I had seen what you had on before, I should not have left you with it on. Turn it inside out quick."

"I don't intend to show it I'm sure"he answered complying with the requ w request.

"But we were challenged only a moment since, and if we were seen, or if I had not imitated the call of a cat they would have had us."

"If I had been alone I should not even then have exposed myself."

"Its a sort of a mistake Penrod Penrod and we must be correct it."

"Half of the Glandelinian officers wear our own colors.They rob our soldiers of their coats, and as much as they hate us don't scruple to w wearour them."

"But a staff uniform."

"I think we had better separate here,I will take care of myself, and you cooperate your investigations in your own way."

"Nonsense.You would be taken in less than half an hour.There seems to be a house over here where if we can secure an ear entrance without being seen I can get you some sort of disguise, or so something of that kind."

"Then Gertrude if I am taken, I am an officer in disguise too, and it would go hard with me."

"I t would anyway."

"It sure would!"

"Yes indeed."

"You are prety well known by reputation."said Penrod."You too had better change your name."

"Perhaps I will if I have to gi ve my name."

"Who goes there?"demanded a squad of men, as they were on the point of crossing a rought rough road.N ot having been seen yet, Gertrude again started her new meowing.

"Darn those cat's"said one of the men.

"Oh don't both er about a cat"replied another."They have just caught this christian spy---a fellow cr awling into outl ines, and can't delay because of an old cat."

Gert Gertrude could see there were eight of them, that they had a soldier prisoner whom they were conducting up the road tward the main body of geural Wyletzes army.

"Where did you capture him"?Gertrude heard another man ask.

"U Up near the flood yonder.He was crawling on his hads andknees between the rows, and had almost succeeded in getting through, when we surprised him.We shall do some hanging in the morning.What shall we do with him major?"

Penrod and Gertrude looked with interest and and sympathy at the poor fellow thus entrapped and Gertrude was thinking out some plan to save him from his fate the moment he she could consistently with the duty of keeping up with appearances

"Take him up to that farm house yonder."said the Major, and Gertrude saw a princelyun f uni um iformed Glandelinian point in the proper direction. The men obeyed.Their dangling sabres too indicated that they belonged to the caveal cavarly, and the obedience they rendered to their m ajor further indicated that they belonged to his troopers.

"How come these Glandelinians to capture him?"asked Penrod wishing to settle this point.

"Gertrude shrugged her shoulders."I believe he was not cautious and got surprised by these men."

"I understand."

"By the way positively Penrod are you sure you have seen my double since we parted early this morning."

"I certainly did."

"Where."?

Penrod told the facts in plain words.

"Well I must capture her that's all."

"It's dagerous Gertrude."

"Can't be helped.She's a menance to our cause."

The house was now in closer view, and there was a light in one of the back rooms. Showing her pass Gertrude was allowed to enter and the four cavarly men followed her with the prisoner the prisoner.

"Com in "said she to Penrod.

"Who is in this house?"demanded Penrod shrinkin g from the light which he saw within."

"I do not know.I want to see this prisoner, and find some means for letting him or getting him free."Replied the girl in a whisper.

Penrod entered the room, where the prisoner had already been conducted. To his surprise and chagrin he discovered that the unfortunate was one of his scout teachers.

"Two of you hold the christian dog"said the major to the soldiers as they entered the small room.

"Now you , the girl and boy."he aded, when the prisoner had been placed in a corner with two men holding him tightly"Allow me to add that I know at least you, that we have carrdd this farce toofar, and that you two are also prisoners."

At this moment to the astonishment of Penrod "Gertrude Angeline "the second entered the room to learn the cause of the commotion------for it appeared

afterwards shemight have been nursing a couple of officers who had been wounded in some skirmish.

"Why Major I did not expect tosee you so early in the morning."said "she."

"I have brought up to two of your acquaintances or at least one"added he poiht p i pointing at Penrod."You sure remember him!"

"My gracious friend Penrod."exclaimd she as a smile of triumph lighted up the features of the beauty."This is an unexpected pleasure indeed.So you have a girl friend with you.I hope you are quite well Captian Penrod.!"

"As well as usual, I thank you."replied he looking at Gertrude too.

He was sure bewildered by the new situation, and roundly con demned his own folly in permitting himself and his girl friend to be led into such a trap.It was quite evident that the major had allowed them to entor this house for the purpose of permitting"Gertrude Angelin e" the second to enjoy the success.Penrod and Gertrude were determined not to afford her much satisfa t satisfaction.Penrod whispered"When the opportunity presents itself I'm going to pull her hair.If it's a wig and comes off you fire.If not we'll try and capture her alive."

"I understand "she said."That girls voice sounds manj mannish to me."

Gertrude was determined to rid the country of that doubleand therefore both she and she and Penrod felt herself self warranted in resorting to the most desperate reme remondies.It was better for both tudio by a bullet or a sabre cut than perish by the way Gladelinianskill children.

"I'll bet that double of yo r your's Angelinia"said the Major "Must h ave been entertaining her captian friend for the last half hour with an account of her services to the Christian Dogs all of which he should have swallowed like a wish des a worm, without seeing the hook within.Both came into the trap like lambs and as you had had some sparring with him as you told me o on a former occassion this morning, when he rather got the better of you I thought you would like to see him before I sent him, the girl and the other christian spy to the rear."

"I am delighted to see him.And the other gentleman is a scout teacher.I can see that by his uniform.He belong's to the command I suppose under those pesty Vivian Girls."

"I never saw him before."replied the major.

"When the major had announced that he and Gertrude were prisoners both had fallen quietly back into a corner of the room behind the door by which they had entered.The man prisoner had been trust into the center of the room, while "Gertrude Angeline"the traitor and the Major stood diag onally opposite him and near the door by which "she "had entered from the chamber of her "pa tients." The three cavarly menwho were Scoodliers and who were not employed were stading standing half way between Penrod, Gertrude, and the man prisoner.

"I'm sure I'm delighted to seeyou, captian Penrod."laughed"Gertrude.""I came over to take care of wounded soldiers, two of them my friends who were shot in battle at Sanitary Creek and expected nothing but a sad sad time. Your capture fills me with satisfaction."

"I suppose I should be greatly obliged to you, and thankful that I am able to do something more tward discharging the debth of "gratitde Inown you for your kindness on a former occassion.You are fond of strangesituations and I am again the central figure in one"answered Penrod curtly and without any apparent appreciation of the difficulty and dangerof hisposition. "Would you like me to ask you any more questions Miss Angelinia Aronburg."This with a sneer.

"I cannot stop to question you now, with a girl friend in my presence belonging to you.And you would evade them if I did, besides this is Major Turners affair this time not mine." replied she with at[illegible]knock a mocking laugh.

"And I will take care that this affair don't go wrong this time."said the Major. "Soldiers secure the threeso dirty christiando s dogs.."

The three men advanced tward Penrod and Gertrude in the corner.

Penrod ha made one quick leap tward "Gertrude Angeline" and pulled at "Her h i hair. N eed not say the actual result.There before Gertrudes astonished gaze stoof in all appearance a man of her own size, a manthe sie of a . tenor eleven your old child.The critical moment when everything depended upon the wisdom and energy of the next move arived.As Penrodpulled off the wig, he himself had stepped back in a rage at the result, raiseadone of his own pistols and taking but hasty and careful aim at his treacherous enemy fired.The ball struck "Gertrude" in the head, and he fell with a shock that caused the rude structure to tremble. A sudden half suppressed shriek from the other room assures those in that apartment that others were aware active proceedings had commenced, though they could not have known who was the first victim in the encounter.The three soldiers who had been ordered to arest the girl and boy scout w re bold enough to advance upon their intended victims

but they only rushed upon a barrel of two revolvers, pointed by the hands of two skilled in the business and collected enough to do their work carefully and effectively.Again Penrod fired, and the foremost of the three soldiers fell dead upon the floor.Gertrude killed the second, and Penrod firing a third time hit the third soldier in the shoulder and he shrank back.The four men in charge of the manprisoner however had been too often in the midst of death and carnage to be appalled by these exciting events.

"Hold this man."exclaimd the more decided of the four."and I will make short work of that boy and girlscout.

"Shoot them"replied the others."Do it quick."

He attempted to do it quick, too quick for his missed his mark, and Gertrude brought himdown.Another man fired, but the smoke impaired his aim, and Penrod got him between the eyes.At this moment the man prisoner conscious that the time was ripe for a demonstration in favor of his two friends had come, with a sharp nervous movement freed himself from the grasp of the Glandelinian soldier in h charge of him, and struck him a tremendous blow in the temple with his bare fist ,which filled him to the floor.N ot satisfied with his deep he sprangupon the other soldier who was now in th the act of firing upon Penod Pe nrod.He grasped him by the shoulders wity with both hands, and brought his knee violently into the small of his back, and and threw him down with a crash.Seizing his pistol, he struck him a heavy blow on the head with the weapon.

"Please don't shoot christian dogs------I surrender surrender."said the wounded Glan delinian------who was the only on of the eight soldiers in the room in condition to speak-------as Penrod moved sullenly tward him.

"Surrender nothing"said Penrod."You don't give us quarter, "and he knocked the man on the head with his pistol, and took the sabre from his belt, and opening the window tossed it out.All active operations had been conquered, all of the men except the midget were killed and in a sho rt time he would probably be able to speak and act for himself.

"He goes to the christian lines with us ifpossible."said Penrod.

"Captian Penrod I would hug you if I had time."said Gertrude."What shall we do n ext!!!!"

"I can not tell"replied Penrod."If we leave this house toosoon we may either have to fight it out or fall into the hands of the first number of fresh men we meet.Besides we have ot n ot done our work yet..We must rest look after you my prisoner"he added pointing to the fallen duplicate"

Penrod stepped over the body ofone of the Gladelin ians Glandelinians which lay n ear the door.First he entered the apartment occupied by the so called wounded officers.There was no light there to his surprise, and he returned to bring one into the room.He found the aide-decamp Francis Turn er standing in the middle of the room, apparently terrbried .

"Francis Turner.You are a prisoner.Gertrude here is another officer who needs your care."he called aloud.

"What do you mean ?"asked he in husky ton s tones.

"I have outwitted your girl friend "Gertrude Angeline.She has fallen. And you are my prisoner!."

"You a Christian dog, have shot a girl."

"No I did not shoot a girl stupid. Your master disguised as a girl. And a fine du plicate at that.But I have killed him.You are to come along with me."

He uttered a faint scream, showing he was not so brave.He was so enfeebled by terror that he did not seem to have the strength to do anything.He was more at talking than at acting.

"What shall I do!"asked he.

"You are to come with us."replied Penrod.

He timidly followed him into the adjoining room and gazed with fear and trembling upon the forms of the dead Glandelinian sld soldiers and the Major in the room.

" Are----are----they all-------dead!!!!" gasped he.

"I don't know"replied Penrod stooping down , an d glancing a t the wound at the duplicate had."No I don't think he is at least dead, and probably will not die of that wound.

"What shall I do! Willyou call a surgeon!"

"I will not for no Glandelin ian skunk.You are to come with me.Never mind them.They would not spare us at your expense.I believe it was you who informed the maj major so he recognise me."

"We have no time to spare captian, Penrod."Interposed Gertrude, with a smile at the simple question of the frightened Glanddelinian boyscout.

"We will make out escape.We will go by the pine trees to the south of the farm----to the south "said Penrod with p eculiar emphasis.

"To the south of the farm, that's good"repeated Gertrude, with the same emphasis though she did not seem to understand the strategy of her boy companion.

"There is no need to hurry, for the more hurry, the less speed in this dangerous business"replied Penrod, as he knelt over the prostrate form of the "duplicate of Gertrude.This time he took from his body the large brass dost which the treacherous Clandelinian officer had worn,and picked up the felt hat, adorned with the black feather, which had dropped from his head.

"He is killed"said the aide-decamp, who was beginning to recover his self possession.

perhaps he is,but that is his fault not mine at all."replied Penrod as he led the way out the door, followed by Gertrude."If you attempt to make any break for escape from us, or leave the place where we are going to confine you it will cost you your life.Help me with your master."

"What are you going to do.?"

"None of your business.Hurry help me carry him or I'll shoot you.".

"Are you going to send for a surgeon.?"Asked he, with a meekness which ill comported with his former imperious manner.

"Not here I won't no."

"But the Little Colonel will die."

"I can 't help it.He's lucky he is not dead already."

"I will not say anything about you if you will let me go."

"No."answered Penrod."Here we'll bring him here.Come with me."added he to Gertrude, when they reached the open air.He led the way to the rear of the house,where there were a number of sheds, and many other out buildings used for various farm purposes.One of these he entered; he and the prisoner carrying the wounded midget, followed by Gertrude who seemed to repose unlimited confidence in the test and ability of her young companion.

"What next Penrod dear!"asked Gertrude in a whisper

"Nothing just yet.There will be a tremendous squabble round here in the course of a few minutes or so or at most half an hour.;it we want just now is a snug place to lie by in until the tempest blows over."

"But you surely are not going to stop here----are you?"demanded Gertrude in a tone whichsufficiently expressed a her astonishment t t such plan.

"This seems to be the b s best place for us.I am not a good strategist as you are Gertrude but I have a very good and fixed principal for use in cases of this kind and that is to stow myself away where they are least likely to look for me."

"Very good Penrod, but where is that place."?

"Here in this house."

"That's reckless after what we did."

"But its the best plan in the world.I don't want to influence you in yourplans Gertrude, but I don't intend to return without the information which I came out to procure.If you want to return to the christian lines I will tell you how you can manage, though I think you had better remain with me.We can tie the prisoner to a post and gag him so he cannot cry out. We'll come back for him and the wounded Colonel later."

"I am entirely of your opinion."whispered Gertrude,with a supressed giggle."You are an old brainy head at this business, and as good a Brlscout as I am, I am as green at it as a two months old baby."

"As you please Gertrude.For my own part I feel tolerably safe now.I was a fool to be tricked by that scoundrel in making me believe he was you early this morning."

"He is an inferio villian."

"Hush"said Penrod, finding his companion was becoming a little too emphatic for safty.! "I must find a place to stow this prisoner away and tie him up."

In the back of the house which he found was only a shed attatched to the rear of the building, Penrod f found a large closet which seemed to be a kind of tool room.In this he bestowed his prisoners, tied up both and rolled a large chopping block up before the door.While he was engaged in this operation the door leading from the kitchen into the shed opened, and a ten year old Clan darlin lan cwned child slave rushed out, a girl she was apparently deeply moved by some circumstance which Penrod had no difficulty in fully understanding She had a lighter can dle in her hand which at once revealed to her the presence of two strangers confronting her.

"My Dear God in Heaven help me." exclaimed she starting back with great alarm.

"Silence slavy.Don't speak again."said Penrod in a low tone.

"Gracious that is little Coon Colonel Hantro with you."added she shrinking back, and pointing with a trembling finger at Gertrude.

Gertrudes presence with the new features the colonel had worn to his disadvantage seemed to expla n explain the terror of the child slave.

"Where have you been most slavy!"

"For a doctor sa"said she almost beginning to cry"but if you are the lost soul of Colonel Hantro taint no use to go for the doctor; for he must be dead."

"No matter what I am all girlie."Come with me."said Gertrude.

"Heaven help us."

"How come you speak like that in a Clandelinian camp.!"

"I am a christian."

"Would you like your freedom."

"I sure would but you a spirit.How can you give it to me when you're in hell by now."

"Gertrude could not help laughing at this.

"I'm not a spirit, and neither am I the colonel"She said."If you behave yourself,and done don't make a noise I will take you with us to the christian lines if you'll help us guard two prisoners."said Gertrude; as she led the way into the shed where she had left the two.

"What shall I be doing Miss."

"Just keep them from escaping."

A few steps from the door and they were in the shed.They told the child slave to go in, and Penrod closed the dr upon her with an injunction to loo keep entirely quiet, watch the door where the block stood against which she faithfully desired to obey.Then closing the door upon her after having giving her a knife to fight with in case the ade-decamp should try to escape Penrod and Gertrude returned to the house, satisfied that the child slave would keep her promise.The girl slave had left the kitchen dooropen; and they walked in, Penrod with the candlelight in his hand.There was a fire in the stove on which there were several dishes of gruel, and other articles necessary for the sick room.It was evidently that the farmer and his family had been scared off the premises for no other person appeared to disturb their operations.Their long heavy riding boots were not favorable to stealthy movements, and they retired to the back room to remove them.After satisfying themselves by a further examination in regard to the structure of the house, and the position of the doors and windows, Penrod extinguished the light, and passed from the kitchen kitchen to the front entry.The doors connecting with the front room where the few moments of exciting event to had occured were open.They heard some one inside apparently in the deepest distress talking to one of the officers who had been in and saw the dead man.He being alone was unable to do anything, and he left immediately to call for help.Penrod and Gertrude concealed themselves under the stairs, and waited for further develo pments.They were not compelled to wait long for presently they heard foot steps which indicated the arival of at least a score of persons .

"It's hardly tim for the return of the midget Colonel"said one of them.

"We are rather too early, but when he comes he will bring us the best news we ever heard good intelligence."added another, as they entered the front room.

Then suddenly there was a commotion which was produced by the discovery of what had taken place in the apartment.There was nothing but a thin board partition between the two child scoute and theinterior of the room and they could distinctly hear everything that was said.No one however could guess what had happened in the room but they were sure of it that theade soldiers and the Major had been shot in their attempt to either capture or hold two christian prisoners and that the "man" who had done the deed escaped.From what was said it was evident that one of the persons was a general of high command a general of division, if not Nylatze himself.All the others simply called him "general in chief" and Gertrude and Penrod could not determine who he was.The officers with him were probably members of his staff.The general immediately despatched one of his officers to start a strict search for the scamp who had done this "terrible"work.He regretted deeply that it had not been discovred before---for the " miscreants" as he called them in the most complimentary terms were probably a good distance from the house by this time.

"Which way do you think they went general."asked some eagerly.

"I'll guarantee they went to the North of the house."

"To the North.Very well persue them toward the North.But don't say a single word about what has happened till to morrow.it will help us in the search."

The speaker proceeded to give very careful directions for the permit and the search to all of which Gertrude and Penrod listened with the deepest interest .A colonel who had been charged with the duty departed.

"What do you think of them all doctor?" asked one of the sergeants revealing to the two listeners the real thatone of the officers was a woman.

"Butone of these are alive.The bails have passed through their hands or body.It seems as if it was a personal assassination, a massacre. I don't believe this was done by any two persons.I'll bet it was done by a number.

"Indeed Penrod and Gertrude too heard all that was being said in the front room, and judged from that and the sounds of other kinds which reached him what was taking place there.The dead ones were sent off for it appeared that the general wanted to the apartment for a consultation with his officers.It was expected that the duplicate of Gertrudma would be present at this place with fresh information from the christian lines, and both Penrod and Gertrude congratulated themselves that they had been able to disappoint disappoint them immensely in this respect.Gertrude had with him chosen the ravine for her passage through the picketlines, and it was now evident that they both should be able to accomplish much.Gertrude was armed with two passes, and Penrod will knew was regarded in the christian lines as a girlscout captain general of the Vivian girls or troop of girls and therefore being a duplicate officer in the forlines should be able to go where shepleased even into the very councils of the generals of the various Glandelinian armies, and the reason why she never was discovered, and if not captured at least frustrated was sort of miraculous to him, and therefor therefore he sure did admire her.

Penrod believed he had made a great discovery.He always wondered why, how ad and hw where any christian general who might have been serving with always knew precisely when and where a immense glandelinian army was going to move, its intentions, and all activities it might imposupi upon itself.

"When general Manley had come m onds made uphis i his mind to attack general Vivians too small an army at Heidi's, they suddenly decamped.

All of the movements of any of Manleys armies or his greatest chieftians and generals were always mysteriously communicatedto either the christian officials or to Vivint, and her sisters even before the general officers of ay of the Glandelinian generals were informed in regard to them. All people of the christian country wondered, the press commaand joyfully, and the christian government was glad though dumbfounded.

Penrod thought he understood it all now, and believed he had beside him the very girlscout who had done all this mischief to the enemy.Much as we admire Penrod, we are compelled to say that he was partly mistaken.How about himself and all the rest of the scouts, and Redcliffe, Angelina Nichas and others.He himself had helped to do much of this injury to Glandelinia's most wicked cause as past and fur future pages of this story will show.But he believed that Gertrude was the girlscout who conveyed all this information he helped believed he had made this great discovery, accomplished this big thing, and he took courage accordingly. Of course the "Gertrude Angeline" he had shot and killed was not there to speak of what the "Christian Douglas"had done(Glandelinian skunks) and what they intended to do but for all this the consultation of generals general officers proceeded.Penrod and Pen rod and Gertrude heard them discuss theirown position and that of the Glan delinian armies, and of how general Vivianis was defeated he heard them suggest all manners of all probabilities and possibilities, and how to meet, them, how to f r ustrate the return of Vivianis, but they did not speak so correctly or loudly as he wished they would. They alluded to a line of field works to be erected at Elenor Creek which was possible for Gertrude and Penrod to locate.

SOME OF SERIOUS EVENTS IN THE ENEMY LINES.
THE IMPORTANT VALUE OF THE HELP OF GERTRUDE....
THE CAPTURE OF THE ENEMY WAGON TRAIN, AND THE SLAUGHTER OF GLANDELINIAN CAVALRY.

Penrod and Gertrude were coiled up behind a chest of drawers,and did not seem to concern themselves at all about their personal safty. Indeed they were too deeply interested in th e labors of the Glandelinian c uncil to think of th mselves.They had a tolerably good idea indeed of the plans of the enemy and wondered whether the man., who was a so often only called"General" was reallily the dreaded Mr Heidi.He could not reach a satisfactory conclusion on this point but he was strongly in favor of the supposition.

"It is ten oclock and we must get a little breakfast."said the mysterious general, nd Penrod heard the rattling of chairs when they rose from the table.

"Hundreds of thousands of us will probably make a long sleep of it pretty soon."added one of the officers.

2"Please don't make such matters a trifle now."continued the general in a solemn tone."Ah here is the colonel."he added as a door opened and six persons entered the room.W"What n ews did you bring?.Have you captured those christian spies?"

"I have neither captured them nor heard a single word of them.And not a soul within our lines knows anything should them."-replied the colonel in tones of disgust and mortification....:.

"That ews is very strange.Our sentinels must be sleepy or have fallen asleep, they must be stirred up.Th the dangerous spies have not been gone from this house more than twenty or thirty minutes when we arrived, a ccording to the statement of some ofour slaves who saw the occurrence."

"Nothing was ever more thoroughly done than the search we have made, but been positively sure they h have not through, though I don't see how they could in this twilight."

"Perhaps not."suggested the general.

"I and my men have searched every house, every grove and clump of trees, ev y hole ditch, ravine and cornfield within two miles of this spot.I am satisfied, but I believe either there are te traitors within our camp or child slaves helped them in order to escape with them.Anyhow they could not have got through without help fromour side of the line."

"Some one look into that matter immediately."replied the general."Those spies must be captured.They left this house and I know it."

They soon left the hous house in a body, and all was silent within . Gertrude and Penrod had done all they could in thimble's and they were satisfied that the search for himself and her had been abandoned.They crawled out of the corners in which they had been coiled away for over three hours intent upon the great duty which was still in a great measure not performed... Both had som doubts whether the child slave left to guard the prisoners had been patient under the long delay, and they were in haste to relieve t her from the suspense and discomfort ofher situation. There apparently was no one in the house, and therefore there was nothing to fear, and they crept toward the door leading from the entry into the kitchen.Penrod softly opened it to make sure the coast was clear and both were stealthily making their way toward the shed when the door of the front room was thrown wide open, and some Glandelinian girlscout apparently in a great hurry, stepped into the kitchen.She had something in her hand and was intent upon the object which had brought her there so that she at first did not see Penrod or Gertrude, who stood in the middle of the floor.When she discovered the strangers she screamed and startled back in astonishment and terror, dropping the dish, but she still held the light which for some reason she had been carrying. Not knowing who x she might be both Penrod and Gertrude regarded the meeting as a very unfortunate occurance, and wished he had been prudent enough to go out at the front door, but it was too late in indulge in vain regrets, and the situation was indeed s ufficiently dangerous to induce them to resort at once to decisive measures for the tongue of any Glandelinian girlscout was hardly less dangerous than a full squadron of Glandelinian Wheeler cavarly.

"Who are you!" asked the girlscout, when she had recovered herself sufficiently to speak.

"It matters not who I or my companion are."replied Penrod.

"Captian Schofield Penrod."Exclaimd she shrinking back still further.

"I am sorry for your sake Miss, that you have recognized me."replied he dropping the collar of his coat which he had drawnup over his face."Who ever you are by girlscout your dear

Who ever you are, or what girlscout you are your discovery endangers our lives, and therefore we are compelled to either shoot you or!!!

"Why to shoot me"exclaimed she w th horror.

"What is the matter Hattie,"said a voice from the front room, which was followed by the appearance of some other girlscout, whose head was tied up with bandages, as if a surgeon had dressed it.

"It is captian Penrod,and his companion Gert ude Angeline within the rebel lines. "said she in trembling tones.

Penrod was surprised and so was Gertrude in the words she used"Rebel lines." Was she a spy too.

"It seems that something is mysterous about you two."added Penrod, to ing a pistol from his belt.

"Don't fris fde, Penrod don't"said the other girl in tones so feeble and petious, that Penrod could not help being moved by them."You got us wrong for we are not Glandelinians."

"Well if you are not Glandelinians prove it."said Penrod."Your uniforms are of the enemy, though I'll admit your voice sounds mighty familiar.But it is your life or ours, and I have no time to argue the matter.If you are what your uniform signifies in five mim minutes o more you will have the whole Glandelinian army at our heels.I will run no risk with any one within the Glandelinian encampments I do not know."replied Penrod.

"Don't fire, begged the other girl."We are not enemies, nor Glandelinians. We will do anything you desire if you will not ask us who we are.It must remain secret."

"It was something strange to see two girlscouts in Glandelinian uniforms, who if they were, are the most pestilent and inver inveterate enemies of the christian goverm government had in the contest in a pleading posture, when Gladelinian girlscouts who would have rushed them both at sight.If they were girlscods of the Glandelinians, then it was swas something to expose the rid iculous pretensions of two of that army of female Glandelinian soldiers fiercer and more vindicative than the men or boyscouts, and to demonstrate that she or her companion seemed not to have the courage of which they might have boasted. What these girls were neither Gertrude nor Penrod knew.They knew too that to the enemy government the Vivian Girls were more pestilent and inveterate fiercer and more vindicitive than any girlscout on both sides combined but surely when they were far away with Evans they could not be here spying on the enemy already.Yet these two were "frightfully"striking in their surpassing childish beauty.

"I wish not to take the life of either of you, but as you won't tell me who you are, our own safty compells us to use stron g measures."said Gertrude herself, as she drew and cocked her pistol.

"For mercy's sake Gertrude don't fire."gasped the girls."If you do you'll commit a tragedy that'll stun the world, and a big blunder at the same time. Don't be foolish and kill us too Penrod, I will pledge you my word and hon or that we are not enemies, and that we will not expose you.But we don't want to be revealed here in the camp either."

"What are your word and honor good for girls if after what has happened here already, and we don't even know whoiyou are!" sneered Penrod.

"We will give you all the information you require, if you will not make us reveal ourselves now."

"That would not save the life of myself and my companion."

"I willgive you the countersign."

"Don't need to.We got it."

Gertrude and Penrod did not know what to do.Did not know whether they were friends or enemies, or whether these girls were traitors to both sides but all this, and more Penrod and Gertrude would give in exchange for their lives to know who they are..To find out whether they would tell anything (which Glandelinian scouts would not even at the cost of their lives) Penrod then questioned the two girls in regard to the position of various portions of general Hyletzds army, and the two answered him promptly, and truthfully and even finally ended with"It was general Cannonis who held the council in this house.Look out for him.He's a rattlesnake."

"Since you two girls mysteriously know me, you should then also know that we both go about with our lives in our hands.I am not trifled with and willnot be trifled with..I will not take your lives since you seem to be loyal to our cause."

"I will swear never to freveal your presence to any l living soul." exclaimed on of one of the girls.

"You need not you have given me better security than anything else that you will not expose me.If I am or my mypartner are to be taken or are taken we shall be taken with the countersign which we recieved from you.If you have given me the wrong word we might be turned back...."""""""""

"I have perfectly given you the right word."Interposed the girlscout."

"Youdh shall have my pass."

"I have one already.I have not y et exhausted all my resources."said Gertrude producing the passes.

"Who ever you are, if you are loyal to our cause then all I ask of you two girls is to keep still."contin ued Gertrude.

"I will."."Replied the first girl, angrily.

"And I will too ,captian Penrod.What we would do here would ruined ruined us and you too.If you wish to learn our identification meet us in the christian lines to night."

"I thinkyou two girls are coming to your senses now."

"May I also ask you and Penrod, to also keep quiet in regard towhat we are here for!"for you know the penalty of that which I could not have done ifwe had not stood on the brinks of an open grave."

"That we will too."

Perhaps som twinge of remourse had induced both Penrod and Gertrude to let the strangers off easier than they would otherwise would.The fear too of killing some one whom afterwards might have turned out their best friend had deprived them of keeping their threat to the two, and under the pressure of that terror of the danger of by mistake shooting friends in disguise, they had forbear more than it was possible for them under any other circumstances. Penrod was a boy of excellency excellant nerve and a boy of much nobility of purpose and his w severe encounters of this morning had worked a great change in his moral and mental organization.He feared that by the extreme beauty of him despite their g disguise they might have been some thing of the vivian girls and if he had even accidentally shot them by mistake even if only wounding, he would have felt as if he had absou absolutely betrayed the cause for which he professed so an earnest and sice sincere a devotion.Many time too his suspected enemies would be a blunder and just a few hours his suspicion of Gertrude being a traitor had been a rank delusion.This was an exceptional experience even in the ranks of any christian heroes.Penrod being satisfied with what was promised and with what had already been performed, restored his pistol to his belt and then said to the one who wore the bandage around her head; "Violet vivian It's you or I'll be boud bound."

"Suddenly she put her finger to her mouth and this gusture gesture confirmed his suspicions.He hastened back to the house this time followed by them and Gertrude, and he entered the shed where the prisoners were to be under guard by the child slave.He had feared all the time from fright or disloyalty she might have either liberated them or deserted her post, but there she was still.

"Comeout little slavy."said he as he threw openthe door.

"Is that a child scout in disguise.!"asked the new girl friend.

"Penrod though he could not guess how the two vivian Girls could be here nevertheless did not let his astonu aston ishment and wonder keept him from telling of his fullmornings exprience..He explained as briefly aspossibl e the events that had transpired, how finally he had killed Gertrudes double to which the two girls listened with wonder and great admiration.It was now near noon and there was still much to be done before they could return to camp. Penrod still wearing the coat and feathered hat of Gertrudes Duplicate left the room followed by the two Princesses, and for three hours wandered about the camps of the rebels.They were often challenged, but Penrod gave his name as Colonel Handi and produced the passes when calledupon or gave the counter sign.

But they could not yet succeed in trying to make out what information they wanted, though they made some examination of the camps.

"We will have to take the chances to remain in these camps a long time."said Penrod,when Gertrude had explained to the other two of the ravine through which it would be necessary to pass on their return, for it was not likely that the Glandelinian pickets would permit as one t. go over to the christians.

"I'm afraid we'll be here to long, too long"replied Gertrude, rather nervously."I' m afraid we'll be in dutch because we killed at double of mine."

"That glandelinian general grinds up in informations rapidly.Wecmust try and get out if possible."

Slowly and carefully the four of them worked their way in the direct ion of the ravine for they felt they were treasure houses of information which must not needlessly be exposed to destruction, and a little hurrying not only imperiled their own lives but endangered the good cause to which both the scouts were devoted.Yet they could not find the ravine.

Suddenly something fl e flew through the air and struck Gertrude knocking her down.

"Did something wound you Gertr de Gertrude!" demanded Penrod, who could think of nothing at this moment but the amzing fact that he again stood in the presence of two strange girls who may be the Vivian Girls.

"Something hit me, but I'm not hurt."replied Gertrde.

"You was knocked down by something.I hope you are not wounded!"

"N o.It felt like it was thrown.It was not a shot.It was a rock."

"Upon my word Gertrude I was not aware of that.But then let us continue on."

In th the meantime Angeline Richee had rode up to Jean Saunders.

"What's the matter my dearest girlscout friend!"demanded she, as she rode up to him."Is your shoulder bothering you more to day!"

"No ."replied Jean languidly"but indeed I do not know what is ailing me. I feel much weaker however, and my chest is as stiff as wood. "

"I8m scared."said Angeline"For you are as pale as death.Are you sure your wound is not setting in gangrene!"asked Angeline, tenderly and anxiously.

"I don't think so.I feel queer all over."..."

"Dismount and let me overhaul you.I am sure you are in a bad condition again."Continued Angeline as she took Jeans hand.

"I'll confess I don't feel ve y very well but I don't believe it's my wounded shoulder.I have a fever of some sort."

Things began to l o look ve ry shaky before her, she suddenly felt a deadly nausea, and before she could get off her horse she sank fainting into the arms of her girlscout friend..Angeline with the help of another scout a boy took her from her saddle, and laid her on the ground.Angeline Richee was alermed, and tore open her waist h near the wounded shoulder to examine that part, u but there was no puss, no signs of the wound growing worst or even a spot to indicate any even slight complications.she therefore feared Jean from her recent hardships on the raft had taken a fever of some kind.She unc unslung her canteen of water, sprnkled her face, and then rubbed her temples with her hands.

H She believed that Jean had only fainted from e exhaustion consequent upon the severe trials of the preceding trip on the raft and the dreadful adventures she had gone through and the excitement and the fatigue, and her wounds, and her rescue work, and her care of Jack night and day.However the skillful attention of Angeline Richee soon restored her to her seenses, but she was now as weak ás as helpless and as feeble as an infant.She had eaten only one of the hard tack busciui biscuits she had taken in the morbi morning and had performed her r trying dutues dutiss despite her wounded shoulder on an empty stomach.Her health already shattered by her hardships ad her severe wounded condictions both arm and shoulder was not equal to the fatigues she had been called upon to edue en dure.

"There is nothing further for me andyou to do here."e have won our adventure sofar, and when Gertrude and Penrod returns we shall have the day." said Angeline Richee."Now we will go and have you taken care of."

"I am perfectly willing, for I can't stand this pain any longer." replied poor Jean feebly ..

Angeline helped her on her horse again, and walked by her side, as they slowly made their way tward Gertrudes headquarters. Every house within the vinicity of the recent battlfields were filled with wounded soldiers. Angeline got some refreshments for Jean,which in a measure restored her strength.

"I'm afraid you are going to be good and sick Jean."said Angeline anxiously as she gazed upon the pale face of her friend.

"I don't feel so Angeline."It's only my fasting that did this.When I'm rested up I'll be all ri h right.I feel better already."

"Nevertheless I am bound to see you in a comfortable plave place neverthe less.Would you rather be in Gertrudes headquarters or your own tent."

"Better in Gertrudes,where I am near her and the others.I must report myself at headquarters first."

"Right, ad you will find your little aide-decamp and probably your sister there."

Th ey went to the place where the headquarters had been located, but the general was out scouting, and therefore Jean reported some news to the chief of staff, and found Mildred Maxwell....

"Angeline R e Richee, you look worrdd or sick."exclaimed Mildred.

"No I'm all right."said Angeline."but your friend Jean is sick or some thing of that sort,cand we must look out for her.I'm afraid she's overworked herself, or it may be her shoulder."

Mildred did not like to hear this,an d she proceeded at one on ce to saddle the extra horse. As yet nothing had been or could be learned of where Gertrude could have been gone after she was accused by Penrod of treason , and the little party moved off in search search of accomadations for the sick girlscout.Angeline Richee declared that she must get away from the scenes of any coming battle.She was girl physician enough to understand that the ne rves of her frie friend were muchshattered from her present experiences and prob bly of her efforts th at dreadful day to rescue Jack under fire, and that she needed absolute quiet.

"I believe Gertrudes headquarters is the best."said Jean.

"So much the better if we can man age to get there"replied Angeline"But its eight miles off from here.

"I know but I would be very welcome there.But Angelin e why was Gertrude accused."

"As they rode slowly along Angeline told Jean of the exciting events which Penod Penrod told of his time that early morning..."

In return Jean related the incidents which had happened westward of the march of general G annon from the north, and of the terrible baptism of blood of his army at Andrean,where general Lison fell mortally wounded, and other red fields in which countless regiments had been reduced to mere skeletons.There were a thousand things w for each to tell,and Jean almost forgot her wea ness in the interest also which she felt in the history of Angeline's experience, and his regiment.

"But, Jean, who were those seven prety girls who came into camp this morning in a strange grey uniformed dis guise with a man, who brought whole wagon loads of child slaves."?

"I never saw them before though they looked kind of familiar to me"said Jean.

"Did they speak to you."?asked Angeline."

"They nodded but said nothing."

"Well but how did you get on!"

"Get on!"

"You sure know what I mean."

"I'm sure I don't, replied Jean faintly, though a soft blush colored her pale cheek.

"You were speaking to them of course."?

"They only e mentioned my name, asked me how I was, and told me they were going going back to general vivians army in two days."

"That's nonsense.They couldn't do it.Were they refugees!"

"I know its nonsense but they could do it maybe.But many of us girlscouts are given over to reckless deeds."

"I'm not."

"Pooh."

"They seemed to be friendly, and sort of sad, especially the pretti - prettiest one on e."

"Of course they were."

The "The tall pow rful man who accompanied them with those wagon loads of children and an escort seemed kind of familiar to me but I couldn't place him.I have no idea of whom they could be.Maybe he rescued them that's all."

"Haven't you indeed! Let me tell you Jean.If they were the daughters of Emperor vivian I would be surprised."

"What all those rescued children!"

"Jean it's your fever that makes you talk like that. N o I mean those seven pretty girls with the big man."

"That's nonsense Angeline."

"Maybe it is.What did you think they were Jean!"

"Plain girlscouts."

"That's a pretty idea of them.If they are so good to talk to a little wounded sprite lik you and me----"

"But we are not sprites."

"But we look like them, and we might be angel sprites before the war is over."

"We shallnot,you are so absurd Angeline...""

"Perhaps I am."

"I don't feel though as I might be anything much longer...""

"Don't give it up Jean, you will be as good as new in a week or two. your doctor said so....:."

"I promished to write to papa, and mamma."

"Good, do it then.You can telegraph it wireless to Calverine."

"I have no horse in that quarter.Calverine is cut off fromall communic t communications by the disaster you know.I'd like to be there againbutthis so far away. This is the second time I've been ill since I was on the raft.."

"I say jean dear, when you get a higher commission, and have made your fortune in the war, you will need a excellent coat of arms.Let me suggest "I a girlscout, wear a coat of arms."laughed Joan .

"Certainly all girlscout heroines like you, I and others willwant one andmust have one.All great girlscouts have oneViolet,and her sisters always have one."

"And you would put your character and heroism on it."?

"Certainly .That's the id a idea.But where did you say we were going Joan."

"To Gorth Gertrudes headquarters, and we are nearly there."replied the little sidk sickgirlscout.

Joan had chosen this place on account of its retired situation,and because she could not think of an y other suitable place to lay down in in case she was sick or again wounded.In spite of her cheerful nature she had some dismal forbodin gs in regard to the future.And nothing but the inspiration of her lively sunny companion's presence kept her from sinkin g under the pain and weakness which assailed her.On rge the road, by the prudent adfi advises of her girl friend she had stopped a n umber of times to rest and refresh herself.She had never felt so weak and shatterad before, and she feared (foolishly) that it would be man y a long day before she would be able again to take herplace on the saddle; or in the lin e of her regiment. Yet her only trouble was just overtired, and she needed rest badly.Toward ten oclock in the morning, the st little party reached Gertrudes headquarters. Angeline Richee took upon herself at this time the whole charge of explaining things.? Mildred took the horses,and Joan followed An geline into the man sion. To the suprise of both they were immedi ately confronted by a beautiful girl in a grey uniform.Something struck Angeline Richee as strange, and she wondered if the party who had once owned the house, taking advantag of the protection of the christian army had not again moved to their own home. Angeline Richee not knowin g who she was politely stated her bui business at the same time acting as though her stay was a settled thing whether the "family of the house" were willing or not.

"This is Miss Aronburgs Headquarters, and she and I are willing to accom odate you dearly Miss Angeline Richee my dearest friend."replied the gray coated girl, as nicely and pleas pleasantly as though she had been a celestial from heaven."

"An geline Richee stepped back aghast.She kn ew the voice.

"Joice Vivian----".

"Sh-h-h-h-, sorry for it An geline but I don't want to be revealed yet but I shall be obliged also to take my or to takepossession.And we have three sick rescued child slaves here too."

"They are little children."

"They are child slaves Angeline, and if it was n ot for Evans, and his soldiers I ,my sisters, nor they would be here.? ter we will explain. To morrow night we head for general vivians.Evans went to find location s now."

Getting over her surprise Angelin e said;

"I have broughtone here who fortunately is not a child slave.My friend Joan Saunders must too be accommodated Joice and I have brought her here. She was injured some days ago and she was or is sick."

"How come she got hurt."

"She r rescued a boyscout by the name of Jack."

"SHE rescued WHO.?"

"A boyscout."

"That's strange.I thought boys rescued girls.What's the reverse. Ed come .I'll help you with her."

"Good.N ow wait till I find a room for you Joan ."

"I feel a little faint again Angeline."

"Don 't faint just yet."

Angeline was entir l entirely at hom here,and she brought water cologne, a smellin g bottle, and finally sat up her friend for another brief period.She then wen t up stairs selected a front room, which she knew from its con tents was evidently the apartment of Gertrude's herself.Angelineknew Joan n eeded more th n than an ything the confort of Gertrude.Mildred was at work preparing the s roomfor the reception of the sick girl, while Joice went elsewhere.

Angeline then conducted her little patient to the comfortable quarters he had secured, and put her to bed.All the house a could furnish she obtained and did all she could to improve the condition of her friend. An hour passed passed and it was expected by this time that Joan would be in a raging fever, and others were greatly alarmed at her condition,but it was soon that no developments occured and that she so far was only in a sound sleep.

Joan was so sound asleep that she kn ew very little of what took place at Gertrudes headquarters within the next four or five hours.Angeline Richee, though it is not mentioned here yet found out how the vivian girls and Evans found their way first to the christian lines under Aronburg, and obtained all the news.O an old but skilful army physician was procured who pronounced the verdict over Joan that her case on was a severer sefe sy severe exhaustion but which did not present any alarming symptons and that with a good sound sleep and plenty of rest she would be all right by the morning. QAngeline was a tender and a skillful nurse, but she felt also that another person was needed to p be present than herself alone.The girlscout needed the soothing care of her elder sister, and she sent a telegram to her in the further part of the campwhere she had gone for the day containing a full statement of Joans not serious condition, but that it was advisable she should be there anyhow.And within another half hour she came. The Four Vivian Girls who were in the buildin g were elated over the success of Gertrudes trip ov on the raft, all which was told by Angelin e Richee, and Angeline afforded themevery convenience, and wished Gertrude and Penrod would soon return so they would be surprised.Nothing was to be said, until Gertrude came and then the subject of their lone prisoner Jack Saunders the "yellow Streak"would be reported.During this time the four girls who had their three other sisters were elsewhere performing duties , donned their own regalia, ad distin ctly informed all others that if any necessity required they would do anything asked even if they are the Princesses.

Then Angeline broke this news.

"Since you Princesses came back I have had bad news.Since Since the last two months Calverinias situation is seeming to hang only by a thread. The flood won't subside, the forest fires are sweeping on, the enemy is winning, the christian effort to Take Mic-Whirther was repulsed; and we have heard no news from Evangeline St Claire where the army you are seeking is.The very world is trembling over us during these long and weary months.Joice and your sisters here I mist say Glendolinia is possessed.Because the floodbarns all approaches Abbiesnnia is not able to take care or rescue her suffering sisters.As to us by the Glendolinians it seems as if we are as much avoided as though we carried a pestilence in our garments."

"We will do what we can to straighten matters since we got back."said the Vivian Girl Catherine."The enemy called us the mad Bills of Abbiennia when I was held a prisoner.We were so separated there could be no communication between us.From what I heard Jennie here, poor Jennie got the worst of it all.I'd like to meet that Augustinia St Claire.Such insolence. I'd lash him as he lashed her."

Some hour after dinner time Joan was awakened, and she felt no signs of any sickness, but Angeline would not permit her to rise..Just as dinner was brought to her for Joan needed it had indeed for her fast caused this trouble more than anything an orderly announced that some one wished to see Joan . At this the Vivian Girls politely bowed themselves out as is theur custom and the person was admitted.

Joan looked surprised it was Jack her wounded boy friend on crutches.

"I am glad to see you22Jack you "Jack said"But sory you find you so ill."

"Thank you Jack, but I was only exhausted.I thought I was ill but I feel all right now."

"You were fortunate in having the attention of hyour good sister and Angelin e. "

"I'm afraid I would have had a rough time of it if it was not for them." added Joan glancing affectionately at them both.

"I learned that you were badly ill and I intended to call upon you before this time, but the doctor who attended my leg, lost the hor dog s and I had to wait untill he could secure some others for which he sent. " continued Jack."I hear too that the Vivian Girls have returned here; but that they are not inSight yet. You know we have between them and ourselves a little affair that needed clearing up."

Outside the door, where they stood the Princesses overheard this remark.

"What affair;i"askee Angeline.

"About that gosh darned coward Jack Sanders.He deserted Joan when she fell in glendale you know."

"It would do no good to bring the subject upbefore them now, as Gertrudeisn't back yet.Of course you had an awful time of it too - saving hi her and watching him too and nothing but Our blessed Lord saved her and you from the enemy even then." interposed Mildred wiping away the tear that started in her eye when she thought of the day in which from her wound recieved then Joan trembled between life and death; and yet Jack had deserted her."If I only can get some thing done he shan't escape the penalty.Gertrude could have Court Marshaled him, but she wanted to leave the matter upto them when they returned.We intend to tell them when the other three arrive, even if Gertrude is not back yet."

"Gertrude is a very useful girlscout Court Marshall.I'm supried she didn't punish the boy herself."said Angeline Riches.

"Well I suppose she is, but she thought there would be no sense to it nor reason to it either in doing it herself.I can't understand how he went off like that and lefy you lay there in such peril Joan"He added she added."

"The memory brought the tears to Joans eyes; but she shook her head and said"He's a coward. Few forigners we have in ou army are brave atall.And only when they turn out to be French, German, an American, or a a Spaniard then they are brave.But these English.I spite on them."

"Most of our girlscout leaders didn't like it we kept holding him so long."said Mildred with a smile."We were all afraid too I suppose with them that he'd escape.But he didn't try it.All the scouts n and soldiers on the raft had their instruction and if he had made a break, he would have suicided.

"VirginiaMaudie didn't like the adventure on the raft so very well."

"Why not?"

"Becau e of the deserter.She was always afraid he was possessed, for all us Abbissinian kids are not sinful you know, and Virginia believes he is.I forgot that none of you know anything about it.I will tell you now Joan, and I'm sure you'll not blame me or others what might happn to him for his desertion of you, especially when you understand the matter."

"I believe I understand."said Joan ."And Jack you did the fair thing when you saw my plight. He rushed upto where on lay on his horse, followed by Dolores, and som of the boys, picked me up under fire, shot a number down including a major of the enemy, and then placing me on his horsein front of me, called to some of his boys and Dolores to follow and chased Jack and caught him.Everyone has now spoken to Gertrudes Uncle about the affair, and no one regards Jack the deserter with any favor whatever.Yet no one can explain how he could have deserted me.He saus his horse ran away but it is not so.I saw himput spurs to his horse as I fell.He was scared."

"I can't explain it myself."added Mildred."I only knowshe deserted yo you, when you was shot by the foe."

Jack Sanders then related the history of the affair of how she fell, the desertion, and so forth never however telling of his own work of rescuing her.He only spoke of the deserter.Angeline Riches listened to the narative with dee deep interest, as did Joice and her sisters outside, unin unknown to them, though not with interest, and Joice pouted when she heard it.
"Sh is alive"whispered Catherine feeling as if she had been slapped in the face"Who ever heard of suchthings, a boyscout deserting a girl.It's a wonder that Joan wasn't killed.But we won't say we overheard.We'll wait untill Gertrude come, and they all take up the matter with us, and then it'll be just too bad for HIM."

"Will he face a firing squad?"

"D depends on his age."said Hattie.

"I understand it all now, Joan and Jack"said Angeline Riches inside the room, though she was rather disconcerted."Though t the deserter is to blame in all cases, it shoul should astonish the world."

"I can never forget it."said Joan .

"There Joan, you musn't talk about it any more now."Interposed Mildred.

"I won't say anything more, but we must settle his hash Mildred.The army won't tolerate a desertery you know no matter what age he or she is."

At this moment the door opened noiselessly, and Angeline Jennings was on the point of entering, but when she saw that the room was already occupied, she turned to retire.

"Joan is sickagain bec because of the enemy."With a contemptuous pronounciat ion of"Because the enemy" but loud enough to be heard by all in the room.

"No matter Angeline go in if Miss Riches is there."said another person behind her."She won't min d."

"She is there,she is taking care of Joan,and Joans sister s also there."said she, as she walked ino into the apart a apartment as though she had been a suprior being.

"How are you Joan?"asked the peron who followed Angeline Jennings.

"Violet, Vivian ."exclaimed Joan, almost rising fromthe bed.

"Goodness Joan becareful"ejaculated Angeline Jennings, fearful that the excitement Joan showed would throw her into another depression."Don't excite yo yourself."

The girl standing with her had her head tied upwith a bandage.

"You are certainly the person at whom I fired."Said Mildred,as she gazed at the form and features of the new comer. It's too bad we thought you were an enemy, but your disguise at the time fooled me."

"No doubt of that Mildred dear."replied Violet."And a very nice tim of it I had too.I'm postive positively I did not succeed in my return fire.I luckily only hit your horse."

"For goodness sak d d you shoot at Violet."exclaimed Miss Saunders the elder fearful in the gathering events that someone would serve Violt in the same way."What have you done Mildred?"

"We were out scouting two hours saad ago, I saw her and so e others coming toard the lines in disguise.I and she opened fire, and I must confess though she brought my hose down, I got the best of her an and she had to retreat. Violet it's the first time a girlscout has worsted a princess."

Violet laughed at that.

"Well you did your duty and I'm not the one tobiame you for it.I forgot I had it on.You pressed me so hard, as you well know I had 5 to a even seek refuge in the enemys lines wi h my sister.I brought Gertrude and Penrod back."

"I hope we will all do ou duty, Mildred, and a get even forour losses on the raft, if the circumstances ever allow us to do so."

"We will, surely, and no one will blame us for it."

"Certainly not."replied Violet.

"Where did you get the wound Princess?"

"Mildred gave it to me as a compliment. Yet saved her life and mine for when after the shooting affair, I suddenly discovered a near view of her face and knew why she was attacking me.I had forgotten my motto never again to approach the lines in a gray uniform.My ota Why my own father would shoot [illegible] as they do us you know.Soldiers and [illegible] the [illegible]."

However poor Mildred was sullen and still over the mistake, while the others gazed in wonder to see that now in the [illegible] about the [illegible] Vivian [illegible].

""You understand it now, girls?"saidd the Princess.

" [illegible] [illegible]."

"But you know, Violet, you must acknowledge I [illegible] mistake in firing on you."

"Don't worry Mildred.Ithis not the fist tim I or my sisters have been taken in dsguise as enemy girlscouts by any of you.We have foll fouled every body even to our own risk.But for the cause we must take the risk.Anyway not knowing you then Mildred, you know I fired the fist shot."

"So you did."

As they looked as it, they saw that Violet had grown thinner and paler under the suffering induced by her wound which she reported she recieved three days ago,and which was confin confirmed by Mildred.Indeed Violet had changed so much during her own illness, that though she was stronger, and though she retained herself on duty, she looked worse than Joan.

"It never occured to me that you had ever fied at my sister before."said Catherine.

"If I had I should have understand the whole matter."

"I understand it perfectly"added Catherine.

"I too understand the situation."added Violet."I confess too that I took advantage of the circumstance of discovering whoyou were Mildred.That is why I got worsted.I would not want to shot d shoot down any of our best and loyal friends."

"But how did you and Evans and yor fiv sistrs here get out of the lines?"asked Angeline Riches.

"Evans brought us through.He fist found me, child slaves helped him by information, to find the rest of us, and he got a gang of disguised men in the foe lines together, and they helpd himthrough with the plot to secure us, and get away fro with the slaves too.We passed through ten miles of the forest fie fire.But Angelin e where did you get my safe conduct you have been using to get through with yor work."

"I picked it up on the ground the night you and your sisters disappeared." replied Angeline Riches.

"That was hardly safe. If you were found with it in yourpossession by the enemy you'd been out of luck on both sides."

"I'd take any chances for t the cause Violet."

"Well then its one of the disadvantages of having to be a girlscout, Violet.

"That name Violet, reminds me that I heard it somewhere else too, in Fredericksburg."added Joan."She's a new scout we have."

"Miss Jennings."said Jules very seriously, after a moments consultation among her sisters."Because we were gone so long we may think we are not as full of news as we ought to be.Angeline Vivian our seventh, was not taken prisoner with us, and that she was left there very ill.If she had been taken prisoner in her condition she might have died, and then we would not have cared what would have been of us. You might have heard.How is she."

"She is recovering, but your return to her will make matters better" said Angeline Jennings."A little girl slave probably you know, her little Jennie keeps her company."

"Jennie.! Jennie who!"

"Don't Don't you remember the little "bunch of clothes"Gertrude brought into the lines see tis ago."!

"Oh Jennie Francis Lillian."said Violet.I thought "I thought the generals had left her in general Arenburgs lines.I'd expect to see her here."

"General Arenburg sent her there to take care of your sister.She's acouts and funny you know, and helps keep up Angeline's spirits."

"I didn't thinkshe could do any such thing.Child slaves are kids of sorrow."

"I have nothing to say about that, its your own affair."added Angeline Nichos."I need only tosay I regard your sister Angeline as well on the road to recovery herlung wound d is healing up, and ave y everything will turn out the better.If you wish we could telegraph a letter to her telling of your coming."

"No thank you."Replied Hattie"That might be a blunder.Suppose you did, and we would fail to arive after all.It will be a dangerous journey you know.We have three big perils, flood, fire, and the foe, and many other min or s r perils to encountar.If Evans discovers HQ why.to get there we won't move fromthis spot.Then we'll,communicate to her we are are, but cannot come."

"By the way, Captian Mildred,"said Violet,"There is a matter to be settled between us!"and she smiled.

"What is it!"asked Mildred.

"We must not try to shoot.one another again.N ext time we must use cannons instead."

"Everybody laughed at this remark.

"But "said Joan herself"There too is a matter between us also."

Violet looked at her in surprise but she said:

"What I agreed in honor and confidence to do I always have done, and shallcontin ue to do."

"What is it!"asked Jules.

"There Joan you promised tonay nothing until Gertrude came."interposed Angeline Nichos.

"Well"said Jules we "We are not eave droppers but we heard your full conversation.You have been regaling for twat w twenty minutes with your adventures out in Glendale.When we return to Emprer Vivians lines, Jack Smith dare accompanies us.We are dis pusted with his conduct,and dissatisfied.I had hoped that all boyscouts would be able t do more th n than their share and be found to rescue a girl in peril."

"What will be due to him!"

Violet only shook her head and replied:"Depends on his age."

Violet was conducted to a room by one of the girlscouts who insisted that she too should like down for a while, for it was true that her sisters greatly feared the effects of the excitement to which she too had been also jected.In the meantime Gertrude Angeline and Penrod who had returned to christian lines with the two Princesses, with a number of strong boyscouts and they had started for general Arenburgs headquarters.Penrod and Gertrude were retired out from their mornings adventures, especially Penrod that they were compelled to travel slowly, and to take a rest for a few minutes for every block as they passed through the camp.Con sequently it was nearly noon time before they reached general Arenburs Arenburgs main portion of the camp, where the heroine and hero were duly welcomed.

Indeed everybody was actually crazy wiry with happiness over the return from captivity of Violet, and her sisters.They were as good and as beautiful as ever, and when he had seen the six of them they had smiled so sweetly upon him, and pitied him and Joan so tendly that Jack Saunders almost found it in his heart to rejoice at the suffering which had procured himsuch a blissful meeting again with his beloved Princess friends.Violet had told him how disappointed Emprer vivianmust be at not seeing them, and that she had hoped that her sister Angeline stillll lived,and that she and her sisters hoped to get back to Emprer vivians soon.Of course Jack too had suggested that they write to Angeline and tell her of their safe return but they declined as they also said to him that what would she knowwhenthey were not able to come and she was disappointed.

When they had first entered the lines after their return Violet and her sisters had been accompanied by Jack Evans, who had fast soon general Blain Wight linger and manifested a hearty in terest in the officer and joined warmly with his staff in the invitatio invitation to visit the princesses.This was hopeful indeed, and would afford the officers many pleasant reflections, the nature which of which no one need not explain to our cunning readers.Evans d then departed to see if a way could be obtained to bring his friends and the child slaves to the proper army,so that poor Angeline could see her sisters ands more....

It was nearly a full month or over before Violet, and her sisters who had bee been so far seperated had been able by the help of Evans to get away from the Glandelinian camps, and Jennie's consitutution had been almost severely shattered by her trying experience with the Hound Augustinia St Claire and by the strain of the exciting events she had passthrough.

Many spies had visited each Glandelinian army several time during this period to try and find them but to no avail.It was Evans after all who could do many wonders, but how he managed to bring them he wouldn't tell any one and when questions were pressed he became aroused and would say--"Find out for yourself N ose Rubber.".Indeed many had wished to even get Violet and her sisters to tell of their many varied exe experiences during the later month of July and into August, and they all except Jennie told that their times were not so hard, and that they had been forced to serve in the Glandelinian army as girlscouts which they did in order while being prisoners to obtain all the information they desired.It was indeed an interesting narrative, but Jennie was too upset still over her trying times to say anything and she only answered that she would tell the affair some other time.

Many of the girl and boyscouts of Gertrudes command had abundant opportunity now to tell the Princesses of their own harrowing experiences , and perhaps it was fortunate for Gertrude that she was not present at the time or she might have been called upon to tell of her own exp eriences.On this occasion however Jack and Joan were also in the same room and something indeed passed between all the boy and girlscouts which seemed to make every one very much pleased.What this was, the readers maypossibly be able todevine, but as the story relates mainly to the military histories of our heroes and heroines and all the rest,,, and as the Vivian Girls are the main it cannot be introduced properly.

Jack himself was certainly improving in health tut so slowly with his leg that there was no present prospect of his being able to join his regiment or report on the staff of his beloved girlscout leader, Angeline Jennings.And besides his physcian which my was also Joan positively refused to permit him to even go beyond the headquarters.Jack however felt that if something was not done his continued absence would not only deprive the regiment of his services but would prevent som deserving boyscout officer who performed his duties of rank from recieving the pay and promotion to which he was justly entitled.Therefore he had stated to Jennie Vivian that it was best some one would take command in his stead until he was able to be in position again.But he did not take this decisive step untill he was assured by Jennie that he could have an a ppointment onthe staff as soon as he was able to discharge the duties of the position, as he did not resign his command.

While this all had been going on, a few days past, the great battle at Evangeline St Claire had been fought, and as will be stated in the volumn to which the battle belongs, the brave noble, and christian general Vivian, and his brother, perplexed by the treachery of seeming friends who turned out to be rank spies, by the over zealous movements of the

enemy leaders, and by the machinations of what was thought to be envious and jealious officers but which were secret enemies in disguise, and who should have been the forces foremost to support him, badly defeated Federals Glandelinian army anyhow.The ra rank and file of the christians behaved most nobly, fought desperately well, and the way was won for the christians to counter charge the enemy, disjointed the Glandelinian army destroyed parts of it put Manleys arriving army in sucha state that it could not act in concert, and caused portions of his own to be mercilessly slaughtered.Federal however for his recklessness should erod the full responsibility,and there was danger of himstepping down from the exalted milit ary rank to which he had been raised without ambition, and against his own desires.

Before he fought the battle at Evangeline st Claire he was supposed to have been supported anyhow by general Johnston Jacken Manley---the "bravest of the brave" among Glandelinian generals, and one of the ablest soldiers which the war had developed on the sde of the Glandelinian army.He however had fought and lost the battle of Mic-Whirther on the landside, and therefore was soimpaired in strength that he was unable to come to federals assistance .The culiminating of this battle was not however fought at Mic-Whirther proper though it recieved the name never theless.. The Glandelinian fleets in its defense won a decisive victory ton record breaking degree, but Johnston Manley lost on the land side, and this it was hoped would prevent the defiant foe from penetrating the very heart of Calverinia a for there could be no trifling with the feats terrible as it was that was already staring the christian nation in the face.The Christian generals and the army fought Manleys army nobly, and the exult ing Glandelinian armies as that volume will tell were hurled back, shattered and discomfited, tward the south.The battle of Mic-Whirther had been simultaneously followed by the surrender of Remingtonia, and Port S' Stanislaw, and other operations in the west and extreme southwest of Calverinia was now attracting the attention of the country, while for nearly three months general Consentinian Aronburgs army had been compar atively quiet.A Battle at Opheliai had been fought simultaneously, and the Glandelinian army defeated, the battle was a farce as a million Gettysburgs in a day, and the Glandelinian army under Tamerline and others was only saved from an immeasureable disaster by the skill and firmness of general Thomas Phellinia.

The Glandelinian aurthorities, taking advantage of the lull in the storm of war in the extreme east, was sending as news reported vast armies to the west and many christian armies were being despatched under the chief command of general De Riff(Count De Riff) to counteract this addition to the force of the wicked Angelinian insurgents.

Jack Saunders and others had all the time during the trip on the raft waited impatiently for the news of the p progress of events in the east and the west, and was now mourning over the necessity which compelled him to be crippled up.He didn't know when his wounded leg would ever be restored and to day too he was suffering much pain from it, and he had to acknowledge the fact to the doctor who had looked it over and said it was "Pussy."

In his earliest days he had always employed much of his time in all kinds of athletic exercises for boys, in rowing, in gymnastics, and in hard labor in gardens before he entered the army as a scout, and he was a very strong boy fo his age, having the averg average strength of a good sized man in eit- entire.He was ashamed he had to recieve the wounds just for that little trip out into the field, where Jean had to rescue him at her own risk and now had to remain in idleness when the country needed his services.

Wow Violet, and her sisters had informed him that as soon as it would be possible he would recieve a commission as a captian in the regular army of boyscouts, and an appointment on Violets staff as senior aid-de-camp.To this agreeable intelligence was added the hardly less disagreeable fact that any one he choosed could be members of his military family.

"Glory to God, hallelujah."shouted Jack, waving on e of his crutches as he sat up in his bed.

"What on earth is the matter now Jack."Asked Jean dropping the book she was reading as she sat up in bed in her astonihs astonishment.

"Read that Jean."Shouted the boy scout captian.

She took the offered papaer paper.

"A captian in the regular army of boyscouts.When grown up a general for life.What will the others say to that!Violet wrote that I can choose all of you under my command.What will Gertrude do now!"

"Dear me.Well that is good news."added Jean who had a clear regard to the distinction between a regular and a volunteer officer."I suppose

Gertrude will say you are a prety clever boy.I hope though it won't m k make you proud and vain Jack dear."

"I wouldn't pay to be either, Jean, and especially it won't make me vain.Yet I'll tell you what it's no smallthing to be a captian in the regular army of boy and girlscouts, and we all are of that army you know.I think Gertrude won't like me any less for that."

"None of us could like you any more than we do now.If we don't we are not the girlscouts you took us to be.And do you suppose she willwant you to be offall the time, when you!!!!!!"

"Come, Jean, you are getting a little nervous."said Jack with a blush.

w"Well I wish the papers would come,and my leg was all right for I am in a hurry to be at work again."

"You'll get well soon enough, and so will I."added Jean sadly,v as she thought of the loss of so many dear comrades of hers, and the di dismal hours of many days before that had been spent in waiting for intelligence of her parents when she feared they had been drowned.

"At first when I became a scout it was somewhat hard for me to leave home."said Jean."When my commission and appointment followed, and I had put on my uniform, the hardest thing for me was to leave home in the city of Abbieann which had been very dear to me and my parents too.I had only once seen my brother, but has grown, and in the navy.I have never seen or heard of himsince.You know we cannot got communications anywhere now."

Jackwas a boy of tender feelings indeed, and as Jean told how she had wept hitterlyv as she bade her big brother good bye and gave him into the keeping of God and His Boe Blessed Mother, who had so far protected him and perserved him through so many past perils.Jean had a deeper interest in Jack than ever before, even though she was still always sad and hopeful. She had said many earnest prayers to God an d His Blessed Mother for his safty was to be added daily and nightly to those which went up from all the girl and boy scouts in the army.

"Do you see this small bundle, Jean."said Jack, as he opened the parcel in his hand.

"What is it?"

"Don't you see.?"

"A small Catholic Prayer Book."

"These prayers, are the banner, under, or rather over which I fight spy and scout."said he handing her the prayer book, and pointing to the prayers he spoke of.

"The bookis not hardly worn at all."replied she, with a sad smile.

"But I have carrid it on my person in battle and through every adventure in which I have been engaged."

"It is a beautiful book.."

"It was is."said Jack trying to be as cheerful as possible."These prayers have helped me to do my duty, and they also introduced you or me to you,which is the best part of it.When the war is over I am going to put these prayers in a picture frame, and keep them in my room, to remind me of the scenes of the past."

"You are a funny little boy, Jack."said she.

"Perhaps I am, but I mean what I say."

Jack then remembered his own little sister , and he remembered see ing the tears she had shed when he was going.He had been followed by the prayers and hops of his devoted friends when he had proceeded on his journey to the army. Now he was also learning nicely to get over his strange awkward manners which had so often got others provoked at him.When h he had spojen to Jean of his past strange antics she laughed.He knew that This headquarters were at Bridge port near the flood, about nearly seventy miles from Evangeline st Claire, which was the point at which the military operations were still centering.Though the country between Evangeline St Claire, and H n Henrietta was in military possession of the christian army it was in a very disturbed condition.There were strong christians there but the Glandelinians predomina e predominated, and the region was infested with dangerous bodies of Glandelinian cavarly fiercer than irrespon sive guerillas.The only open military railroad despite the flood by which the army recieved its su p i supplies waw was necessarily guarded by ttroops through every mile of its cou rse.

Having returned into the christian lines Gertrude and Penrod proceeded tward their own headquarters.The destruction of a bridge about twenty miles from Bridgeport forced them to make a detour on horseback.

"The air is getting so smoky I am afraid we shall not be able to find out way to yer headquarters."said Penrod, as they rode along.

"You forget that I am at home in this part of the camp."replied Gertrude.

"I remember that."

"I Inwas even born and raised not twenty miles from this spot, in the town of Lillian, over in that direction"She added, pointing to the northwest."I know every foot of land about here and I am indebted to that fact for my appointment on the staff of Violet's ."

"Then we shall not be lost."

"No but the Gladelin ian cavarly are as thick around here minde the camp as flies on a dead dead body.I suppose I have an excellent opportunity to be hung if any of them should catch me."

"That did you take the chances of coming down here fo them?"

"I ought not to make any difference to me. I really rather enjoy the excitement of the danger, besides I like to help restore Calverinia to her normal condition."

"It's getting awful darkand smoky, Gertrude.It's a good thing out headquarters is in sight.I don't think it would be prudent for us to beat about this region in the dark outside the camp."

"Yes Penrod,but its safer to beat about than it is to lie down and go to sleep,but there is our headquarters as you said a couple of miles from here.We may as well hurry on ."

"I thinkwe had better do so."replied Penrod.

"Perhaps we had,especially as it loks like its going to get good and dark again ."

They reached the house,which once had been the residence of the ower of a large al plantation.It had been an elegant establishment before this great war but now it looked like waste and ruin around it.The two stopped before the ,a mansion.Penrod dismounted,and throwing the bridle rein to his aide-decamp, walked up to the front door after saluting the sentry. The sentry made it the door open, and went in without further ceremony and Gertrude followed him, PrbPenrod remaining on his hose to await for Gertrude to come out.It was now quite dark though it was noon time, the wind was howling sagav a savagely through the trees, and the air got more, smoky than usual.

"Bad sign Captian Penrod."said one of the aide-de-camps.

"Yes, but we expect to go in this house as soon as Gertrude comes out." replied Penrod, and at this moment he was called.

A little later a lone man came in t to the ground, showed his pass and was told towait a few minutes till he was summoned, and asked to know his buisness.

"Jack Evans sent me with this note to the Princesses."was his answer.

"I heard he traveled through a forest fire."

"I think not.He find before it you mean:"

"We all must be careful sir."said the aide-decamp."I reckon thevfire could come up and surprise us too."

"I don't know,"replied the man, carelessly, for he was thinking that the sentry was absent a long time upon his mission.He waited a quarter of an hout and then began to be ima impatient at the sentrys long absense.He thought the sentinel must be having a very pleasant interview with the Vivian Girls themselves, and had forgotten that there was a messenger out side waiting for the per mit to enter.At last his patience was completely exhausted, and he had it in his heart therefbe to rebuke the thoughtlessness of the sentinel.

"Here, aide-de-camp hold my hoss. "said the man, as he dismounted."The sentinel must have gone to sleep, and forgotten that I am waiting for him."

"Yes sir, but that is not much like the sentinel to forget you."replied the aide-de-camp taking the rein.

"No I'm afraid it is not, but I'll venture to say he must be having a good time in the house, or he may have been detained for something else."

The man walked up to the front door, and knocked with his fist. It however brought no response, and i he repeated the summons with the butt of his pistol but with no better success than before.He believed that it must be evident that those inside the building were becoming suddenly very deaf, or that all were for some reason or other in the rear of the house where the the sound could not reach them.He therefore opened the dooor and entered.At the end of a long handsomely furnished entry he saw a light through a crackkk which he followed till it brought him to another door, at which he knocked.

"What doyou want here?"demanded a rough uncouth looking boyscout, who presented himself at the door.

"Where is the sentry that want in here half an hour ago to tell of my mission?"asked the man rather impatiently.

"He was detained for some duty."replied the boy."What gave you t the nerve to com in here unasc a unannounced.Don't yo know there is a penalty."

"But I have a mission.Jack Ambrose Evans sent me."repeated the man.

"I'm not acquainted with any body here."

"I should think you were."said the inquirer in a low tone to himself after which he uttered his question again at the top of his lungs.

"I tell you I don't know him"Yelled the boyscout in return.

"And I said where the sentry was whowent into the house half an hour ago."

"I told you he's detained. You should have been announced yourself before entering.If the Princesses know this you'll---"

"Are they in this house."

"They came four oclock this morning."

"When!"

"Heavenly days dumbbell.Four of clock."screamed the boy.

"Have you seen any one else come into this house!" shouted the man.

"I seen some one who was blind in one ear and deaf in three eyes." returned the boy with sarcasm.

"Who lives here boy!"

"No one des:This is a temporary headquarters."

"A temporary what!"

"If you like mr I'll write it down for you."

"Who's the guard inside here."!

"I am."

"Who!"

"I am."Shrieked the boy.

The boy thought to himself"Is this man possessed!"

"What's your name boy!"

"Schfoield Penrods."

"You mean you are the Penrod of Mr Tarkington."

"Now I know he's possessed."said the boy to himself and loudly"I never hard heard of the man."

"What are you!"

"None of yor your business. "

"Do you live here alone."

"What is that to you."

"I want to see the sentry that came in here a while ago.I am sent I tell you by General Jack Evans who is the guardian of the Vivian Girl Princesses."

"Oh that's better."said Penrod."Show me your pass."

The man did so.

"Come in"said Penrod.

The man not knowing where he reallly was did notlike the looks of things,and if he had not been interested in his mission whatever it was he would have retired in disgust from th the house, as h it was he entered the room.There was no sound anywhere and he wondered whether the boy was the only occupant.

"Master Peninthe rod"said the man absent mindly"I wish to see if it permitted the Princesses, who came in here before me.

"Oh you do."said Penrodputting his hand on his pistol.

"I do."

"What's my me name."!

"Pen-in-the-rod."

"Do I look rad sir."

"No."

"Beforey you called me Pen-in-the-rod!"

"I don't remember your name boy."

"Well get a dicto dictin ary then.And besides this is not a deaf house, you needn't yell any more, there is no one deaf here.You can see them, but you will have to beca careful."

"Where are they."!

"Oh good night"said Penrod to himself

"I told you they were here bonehead.They are in the room yonder"and he pointed to the door of a room from which there came streamers of light.

"In this room!"

"YES."

Indeed those in the room heard that and jumped to their feet.

The man h had a great many doubts in regard to the situation.There was apparently no one o in the house as all was as quiet as d eath.

"Mr Penrod."----"

"I ain't Mr Penrod.I told yu sir what my name was."My name is Alain Penrod, and not finished with "In the rod" either. "

"Well Penrid or Penrod I mean."

"That sounds more like it sir.Now what's your name!"

Frank Herdrudes."

"What are you sir!"

"None of yor your business kid."

"Where did you come from!"

"What's that you to you kid."

"All right stranger.You won't tbtell me you would go in that room."

"Now Penrid, are those Princesses reallly in there!"asked the point man, good naturedly in spite of the circumstances of doubt, and possible peril, whichsurrounded him as he pointed to the rear room.He couldn't tell whether secret Glandelinians were in here or not.

"I don't know if they are or not!"said Penrod."I suppose they are not or I don't know even whothey are.What are they!"Penrod decided to be silly too seeing that the man may be a bunehead.

"Well boy who are the Vivian Girls!"

"They are Violet, and her sisters."

"What else are they!"

"Gir's of course.What did you think they are mules!"

"Are they not yur friends!"

"They certainly are."

"How many of them are they!"

With evident disgust Penrod said"Better go in and count them all.There may be fifty of them.What do you want to know for!"

"A boyscout in these great times don't generally seem to have so many friends as you may have."

"No.Well all girls and boys are my friends here."

"Says which."

Forgetting he stood at the door where they were in, Penrod literally screamed the answer a second time finishing with the words"YOU WOODEN HEADED DUMBBELL."

"Well whatever you call me I'm a good man nevertheless, and they all like me"replied the man.

"Well did yo say youwere seeking the Vivian Girls."

"Yes."

"How come you n ow them to be in here."!

"You said so yourself boy."

"Well sir I can't always know who's my friends these days.I got fouled badly once this morning already."

"Who fouled you."

"APRIL THE FIRST."Said Penrod with a sneer, being disgusted at the mans queer questions.

"But I tell you boy I have a pass here, Evans sent me to bring a note to the Princesses,would you be so kind as to call them out."

"I cannot do that."said the uncouth boy, very positively.

"Ad why not!"

"Where did you learn your manners.They are having a council with the girlscouts in there,and I don't want to disturb them.If you do you'll be like touching a phanter at his grub.."

"If you'll tell them a messenge r is here, she will not take offese offense."

"Yes she and they will.They are good, but they won't be disturbed.They will give me the signal when they are admitting any one.You wait out here and I'll speak to them.If they can't see you I cannot help it."

Penrod went in, but he returned in well about ten minutes, though to the man it seemed ten years.

"You may go in but how when you enter."said Penrod opening the door.

"Do which!"

"BOW."Shouted Penrod, while to himself "I'd like to kick him like a foot ball to wakeup his senses.

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The man saw seated around a long table on which there was a plenty of books and papers about twenty girlscouts, and boys too, with the Princesses occupying the center side.This man had never seen the Vivian Girls before, and he stepped back aghast.

"Well what's the matter!"asked the one who lookedlikt Gertrude"Are you shy of us!".

"No but those seven girls sitting there in the center.They are prsons of the other world I tell you."

"Come in if you have a message."said Gertrude severely."Ghosts indeed. Are you crazy.We heard all your foolish talk outside.Come in , and we will make room for you while we look over yur message."

The man still hesitated, and Penrod suddenly gave hima shove sending him flying into the room with a crash, and saidp

"You'll have to ecs excuse himgirls."He never saw girlscouts before, and we came from another world, so you see it don't agree with him.Have you any of my old time French Brandy.It'll bring him to his nerves!"

"Not a drop"they said,almost laughing as the bewildered man got to his feet looking embrassed indeed.He indeed was bewildered by the scene before him, but he readily understood hismission, and he did what he could to hold himself together, and destroy the optical illusion of "Seven Ghosts" while he waited an answer to the message.He stood there like a statue."

"Sit down on the chair there "said Violet.

"What chair!"

"Over there"sie said impatienyl.

The man looked around for a chair and sat on a soa sofa.

"Did Evans sent this note."

"Yes Miss Prin cess."

"Just call me Violet."

"What color!"

"I'm purple of course"she said."You may call me anything but don't act or talk t so dumb."

"H r Here's to the health of our Couthry's cause."said Gertrude who sat at the oposite end of the table, addressing the Vivian Girl who appeared to be the commander of them all.

"All up "said the latter.

"Every one(except the man)rose to their feet with a glass a small glass of wine in their hands."

"All up You "Shouted Penrod to the man!"

"I am all up now."

"Stand up you goose.Don 't you understand."

The man rose then, with a glass of water in his hand. Penrod knocked the glass out of his hand.

"Here"James"said he to a boyscout."Get a glass and fill it with wine. It won't hurt you/ it's not intoxicants you boobs.It's rooth beer wine."

The man was really so dumb he did not know what it was to drink the health of the country.

"To the health of the Nation."said Joice.

"Yes the country sick!" asked the man.

"Yes very."said Joice" Calverinia has, Hydrophobia, Angelinia State has the Measles, Abbisennia has Scarlet Fever, and the other states have complications of them all."

"I'm sorry."said the man."Is it catching.Will we get it."

"You'll get it silly if you don't shut up."said Gertrude.

"To the Health and success of ou country"said Violet.

"Hurrah for warror vivian"added the others.

"One more."shouted Joice as she filled her glass again"and her example was filled by all present.The man didn't want any more for fear he'd get jagged, but Penrod filled his glass to overflowing.

"Here's confusion to the Glandelinians."

"Confusion to all Glandelinia."Repeated the whole assembly.

"Confusion to the wht---"asked the man but this tim they did not pay anyattention to his silly remark.

The whole assembly as if satisfied that they haf firmly established the counrye success already and hurled confusion among the foe rose from the table. Joice came over and said to the man!

"Who did you say sent you!"

"General Jack Evans."

"Are you sure you are from him."replied the other.

"Yes."

"Well go and tell him to come.We will be waiting for him.Penrod will conduct you out.Don't make a mistake though and mistake a tree for him."

When the man was gone, everybody burst out laughing as hard as they could, even Jean and Jack who were in their beds.

"That man is a real goose"said Penrod."H doubt he e meant well, but oh he's so dumb."

"Are you going to join our cavarly again some day or will you remain here?"asked Joice.

"What ever you wish!"answered Penrod.

"We would rather make it worth your while to stay with us."continued Gertrud e."You are a good boy, and you sure can fight, .You even arrested me this morning, and then killed me too."

Everybody looked at her as she said this, especially those who knew not the affair, and then Gertrude explained it all.

"Well I'd like to go or remain but Violet, and her sisters may expct me and I don't wish to disappoint them.I'm going on their staff.You can come to us any time you know."

"Well before you go, there is something up tc night."said Joice confident ially"And you may gain a new commission if you help us to be successful."

"I don't object to helping any o ne out."

"I'll tell you about it if you like."

"I don't object."

"I don't know as I or my sisters willeither it would hardly be prudent for me to do so.You may mistake us for your enemies doubling for our faces like Gertrude.You know you arrested her this morning and then shot her too."

"There was good laughter at this and Penrod said;

"I tell you I was born in Canada thousands of miles from here, and did not think any person could make themselves look like another."

"Well you may be fooled again."any have tried to make themselves as our doubles"said Jennie.You can't spoil the job even if you may mistake us for foes, for we'll do things so we won't.I'll give you certain bywords no one else knows so you'll not be fooled.You are a very reliable boyscout and we want you more than we even want any one else so far.I've got the smartest set of boys and girls that ever scouted or rode theseaddle but you, Gertrude and all these here of Aronlu gs Aronburgs command beats them all.They are all Girlscout.Rangers.Mine or my sisters sin'T."

"I see and kno know full well they are."added Jean herself, glancing with admiration at all the girlscout leaders in the room.

"Violet,and your sisters are very good scouts"said Jack.

"Maybe so.But I've got the keenest scout always on the lokout for me and my sisters you can find anywhere in all scouts of every army we might have.You have got her among you too, and always can and des go inside the Glandelinian camps like a native.We go in for making a munkey out of Glandelinia, while we do a good job for the south of this country."

"Of course "said Gertrude carelessly, hoping Violet would mention it is she.

"There's a Glandelinian squadron of De Banyan Cavarly coming down from Cross Roads Heidi with a covered wagon train w t with a heap of provisions and munitions to use for the Glandelinian army we hear is nearest us.We want those wagons andvwe shall have them too."

"Who's going to get them."?Asked Jack Saunders.

"We will try to."

"If you can get them."suggested Angeline Richee.

"I didn't say we can, I said we'll try, and if any one of you want your share of them you have only to join my company.If you willI'll tell you the rest.First thing we want those wagons to use for our disguise trip with Evans to emperor ivians army at ---where did you say he was encamped---oh yes Evangeline at Claire."

"I'm yours "replied Penrod.

"And you"asked prety little da Daisy turning to B George Zimmermann who had been listening eagerly to the con versation.

"I'm very willing for the adventure.I owe you a depth of gratitude for aiding me in trouble...."

"Good. Gertrude, she's my scout I was speaking of-- will scout and find which way the train of wagons are coming down.We will ruin a bridge which point I know, the wagon train will stop there, Gertr Gertrude willcome over here with her information and all I have to do then will be to pounce on the escort with a large party of troopers, and takepossession of the wagons.The provisions we'll keep, the munitions we'll park here.What do you think of it."

"It's a tip top idea, and I'm with you"said Jack.

"In your conditu condition.?" Surely we couldn't think of it."

"I mean I'm on your side in the plan.But I sure wish I could go."

"I expect according to this note Evans will be back here to morrow."

"All right."I can help you about this business"said Penrod."but it's risky.

"Yu can, now if you could disguise as a genuine boyscout of the foe and ride up and tell the man in the lead of the wagons you are on his side, and with that smooth tongues of yours prevent him from coming forward with too much cavarly, you would earn your share of the reward.But I want to remind you it's a very dangerous un dertaking.More dangerous than our plan of trying tofind out the mystery of these explosions up north."

"I will do it."

"I know you can make those Glandelinian dogs believe anything."

"Very well I will go at once."

"Oh no Penrod, there is no need of going till Gertrude finds out about the cavarly."Willyou go now Gertrude."

"Yes"said Gertrude,and she ordered her- a d aid-e de camp to get her hose and in a few minutes she was gone.

"I think I had better meet the wagon train on the way."

"N ot at all"said Joice shakin g her head."You musn't attempt it till we know the situation better than we do.And besides Gertrudes gone, and you may meet her double again in some other person, and have a fatal adventure."

"Do you think its that dangerous."!"!!!!!"

"Not yet, but it will be.And besides Penrod, don't think we are going to secure those e wagons like eating ice cream.It's going to take a desperate fight. We are to take a strong force of cavarly."

"Very well"said Penrod easily."But Heavens I forgot all about my hose and servant.I left them all this time out side in the company street.I will take care of them."

"We willgo with you"said Violet, and they followed Penrod to the place where he had left his servant and his horse.

"On the way out of the house Penrod whispered a few words in the ear of Hettie, while they were in the darnk darkness of the entry.There was very great danger that things might get a little mixed, and therefore no blunder must occur.

"We must invent signals among ourselves so we won't mistake each others for foes. You know Mildred shot Violet by mistake." was the substance of the communication.When they reached the spot where the horse and aid-de-camp had been left, Penrod told his aide camp to clean his horse and get it ready for a long ride.The horse was then taken to the stable, where it was placed with the others, after which the party returned to the house followed by the aide-de-camp.

"What's the officers name in charge of the wagon train you wish to secure."demanded Penrod.

"Captian Perkins "Replied Catherine.

"What Glandelinian squadron is he captian of."?

"The Dp Banyans."

"What Glandelinian army did he come from."?

"Myletze's.I suppose."

"Is Myletze very cllse close here."

"He certainly is, dangerously near.He's a right smart and most dangerous general."

"What way is he advancing."

"Don't know yet.I wish I knew.I hear Wivianis cannot hold and is retreat ing before him."

"Howlong has Myletze been advn advancing."

"Since he began his campaign."

Penrod asked many other q questions, and Catherine gave prudent answers, she did not kn ow much about Myletze's purpose, and what she did know about the man indivudiatually was plenty.H Her fou five sisters answered in similar terms, and Penrod got very good opinions of Myletze.

"He is known by Glandelinia as a "George Washin gton of their army,and by us as a double of Napoleon."said Daisy.

"Violet told Penrod too that she had learned from various members of her own bands of scouts t recently before she and her sisters were carried away, that the Glandelinian cavarly squadons of Myletzes advancing armies were great organi xations, as fierce as "Confederate and Union Guerillas of o our own late time Cival war, and the Gladelinian cavarly were always engaged in"p a-tisan warfare.The tarlent and address of Violet, and her five sisters had attracted the attention of Pwnrod

Penrod who affected always both strategy and bold and a dashing policies. The conception of Violet and her sisters were creditable to him and Penrod was to prove to be an in valuable assistant to their purpose.

"To be sofar away from their fathers army made the Vivian Girls feel as if they were actually prisoners in General Aronburgs army.They had made inter changes of council, but to take a step for their future safty was even dangerous.Evangeline St Claire was far from here, general Aronburg gave them the direct distance, and the flood, and fire was partly in the way for on e peril, or other, and too many foe cavarly were in the way for the other.The six of them were anxious to reach Emperor vivians army, and especially see Angeline who they knew was ill or had been but t the delay was not volunt ary on their part.They had presented as they always did a bold front, and disarmed suspicion in the beginning by their skill and address.

For their good Penrod always affected strategty, and had always treated his Princesses fr ends with more consideration than he would have and did treat himself.He knew the future movements of Violet, and her sisters dependedupon the information to be brought by Gertrude Angeline. It was some time after dinner that Gertrude returned.All the girlscouts were at the s stables, the boys in their manly manner attending to theirs and their own horses, when her return was announced.Every one was ordered to be ready to mount at a moments notice, while Angeline nichee herself has tened to the house to recieve the news brought by Gertrude, who was eating her dinner in the dinning room.

"F Dolores"I shallwant you."said Angeline nichee, as she saw that good girlscout leader rise up."Your work will commence about this time.We are going on an exciting adventure.It willtake that Glandelinian train two hours or so to get ready for a start.Come with me."

"I am ready for anything ."replied the girl, and followed by Mildred, she went into the house with the girlscout chiefess.They entered the front door, and takingpossession of the drawing room,,,, Angeline ordered Angeline Jennings who seemed to be the commissionary general of the gangs of girls, to ask of Gertrude could come into the room now.

Angeline Jennings left the room, and then for the first time since she had returned from her own work noi noticed the presence of Jack up and walking around on his crutches and told him it was better for his leg to remain in bed.

"He's all right, captian Jennings, it won't hurt his leg any."said her sister, with a little dignity.

"Just as you please Dolores"Replied Angeline with a smile"But I'm greatly worried about his leg.It's been serious."

"It's too bad it couldn't go along"said Mildred."

"Nothing ismore unfortunate than that"said Dolores.It is just as regular for himas it is for any one of us who might be wounded.I don't ask him to remain behind and none of us do but there might be a fight, and then somethingmay happen to him.He is my right hand boy and I can't do anything without him but I do not want him to get hurt worse yet or even killed.I am just as willing to take himas he is to go but you see he can't go."

"I am sorry but you see I have to anyway, the doctor said so "Said Jack. "It's my hard luck that's all.I always wanted to be with you girls on adventures you are so brave.But I shall pray that your raid will be successful, and without loss.But I believe in strategy in a cased case like this."

"So do i I"Said Angeline Jennings."But I must not forget.Gertrude is wanted by Angeline Richee."

"At the call Gertrude entered the room and she sure did look as though she was capable of a doing all that was claimed of her.But she had not eaten her dinner at all in any haste and yet she had not finished it when she presented herself in the drawing room for her mouth was even now crammed full of corn cake which she was trying to dispose of so that she could so speak. While she continued to eat her mouthful Gertrude looked at a map first, crunching the food in her mouth in the most vigorious manner. From the map she glanced through a geography, then glanced at Mildred who stood next to her and pointed at a small map.Penrod had walked away to a w n window on the other side of the room, and as s he turned to come back the girlscout general looked at him.Penrod looked at the map.

"Well what des this mean?" demanded Angelin e nichee.

Angeline R o R c Richee f glan ced at Penrod, and saw him give Dolores a very slight, but energetic shake of the head accompanied by a look which seemed to penetrate to the very soul of Dolores.Dolores improved this very opportunity, still gazing intently on Penrod to swallow the food in his in her own mouth.

"Why don't you speak Penrod"she demanded impatiently for she was wait ing for her to explain this singular conduct.

"It is too dumbfounded I cannot speak."replied Dolores,exhibiting a great deal of emotion in her tones.

"Cannot speak.?Is there something wrong about the maps."?.,.

"There sure is."

"What is wrong please."!???

"Let Penrod answer for himself.It is not for me to speak of some thing which he alone knows.

"What does all this mean?" said the Girlscout leader, bewildered by the new aspects of affairs."What is wrong about the map that you cannot explain it?"

"There is nothing wrong with the mpa"said Penrod."But there is something wrong in our situation.Myletze has a bigger army than vivianis and general Aronburg together."

"What's the situation?"

"That we cannot tell.But Violet's plan is a most desperate one." answered sh she mysteriously.

"That may be but I command here for the time being.Are we going to back out of it or not."

"No a"almost shouted Penrod."We are going through with it even if we have tofight the devil himself."

"Good."exclaimed Angeline Richee, appearently much pleased with this confirmation of what Penrod had said.

"Hurry and give your information Gertrude please."added Dolores with an awful exhin exhibition of dignity, as though she were the "big scout" whom all other scouts had represented her to be.....

"Not yet."said Angeline Richee."Violet, and her five sisters must be here so we can understand this matter better.You said it's to be a desperate undertaking, Penrod.???.?"

"Yes.I and Gertrude have been out scouting together this morning.We have worked together for months and have become experienced.It will be successful no doubt, but we'll need a strong force of good swift cavarly men.Otherwise the undertaking is suicide ....."

"Oh that is the idea---is it----?!?!"said Angeline Richee of the girlscouts."Then you sure are a good scount v scout indeed to make such a discovery..."

"I have done a great deal of hard work not withstanding of almost shootin g Gertrude twice by mistake because her double hoodwinked me.I have stood by the flag of yor your country almost from the begginning."Returned Penrod."and General Great heart has learned me a lot, being a scout all his lifeace."

"But is the undertakin g so dangerous."!"

"Positively. Whatever he says is right."said Gertrude.

" Gertrude I am satisfied now"said Angeline nichee extending her hand."We all have had implicit confidence in all your work, but then we'll have to use pr prudence in our expedition.But Violet, and her sisters must have those wagons, to convey th the slaws to Empror Viviais Vivians lines."

"Now tell your information Gertrude"added Angeline Jennings.

Jack indeed was confounded by the events which had just transpired before him.He did not know what to make of them.Gertrude too had always a wonderful power over the others, which he nor even she could not explain, but whatever occured, she knew that or he knew that Gertrude had discovered something worth while, thatbthe recognition of the peril were no evidences of untruth.He knew too Myletzes wagon trains were always guarded by strong bodies of the "De Banyan cavarly.He could not understand the situation but every one could trust Gertrude to bring them always out of a tight fix.

"Shall I go on Angeline?" said Gertrude appealing to Angeline Richee.

"Certainly proceed."replied the girlscoutychiefff.

Gertrudes explanation of hermission was short, and to the point.The wagon train had arived within two miles of the christian lines pressing in the direction of general Myletx Myletzes army and there was present a force of about IO,IOO cavarly of Mounted "Wheelers instead of the De Banyans to convey the train to a place of destination.

"""""IO,IOO"exclaimed Angeline Richee, vexed at this startling information. "Gertrude are you positive you counted right."?

"I didn't count them.Penrod did."

"We shall then need thirty thousand."

"You bet."exclaimed Dolores."Or the adventure will be a fatality in stéadDoIomesuseédstMis, she discovered a boyscout looking in through the half opened door with curiousity.

"J James Linvher"Cried the girl agrily.

There was no reply, and Dolores repeated the call half a dozen times, as loud as she could yell.

"Did you call me Miss Jennings?"said the boy coming to it the door which was now discovered to be partially open.

"I did rubber neck, you have been listening in at the door."

"I'll d catch them as soon as I can Miss Jennings."

"Non e of that with me now."added Dolores agrily.

"Bey Bet your life there isn't Miss Jennings."

"Are you trying to get sassy."said Dolores advancing threateningly tward him, having picked up a rule from the table.

"Take care Miss don't hit me."

"Can't you hear what I say James.If you can't I'll open your ears."

"I ain't deaf."

"I know it, and you have been listening to all that has been said in this room."

"I was afraid you girlscouts might forget something, and might want me you remind you of it."

"Come here."

The boy obeyed.

"Doyou know where the rest of our scouts are?"

"Yes Ma'm."

"Ride over there as fast as you can, and tell Virginia and Iriene to meet me at Apple'tree road with all her force of girlscouts.Do you understand?"

"Yes Miss Dolores."

"It will only take you ten minutes to go, and another ten minutes for Virginia and Iriene to reach the cor cross roads."

The boy went off.

"How many men do you think we'll need to carry the plan through?"demanded Penrod in business like tones.

"About thirty or fourty thousand."replied Angeline Richee."By that number we can make a su e thing of it for we shall outnumber the Glandelin ians and choose our own ground besides.

"Ad And where are the rest of the force of girl and boybscouts now?"

"At St Vincents Junction, onthe Big-Girl Knool Road.I have driven them hard lately, and I gave them a rest since the day we left the raft.""

"I know the place.It's near the south of the campp."

"So so just so.We believe in strategy, and I thought we should do better with fourty thousad men too than we should with an equal to that of the enemy, for Violet, and hersvisters desires to take the whole tr i train if possible.".

"Their pland are good, but do you send only one boy on such a message. Suppose he should fall from his horse, or he shot by a Glandelinian skunk."

"I can't spare but one for we may have to do the job before the rest of the force of girlscouts arive.All of us are going to jointhe soldiers."

"Send George the German recruit."suggested Jean Saunders.

"What good would that do.?We didn't take them where he would know, and probably he wouldn't find the girls."

"Do you know where St Vincents Junction is George?"asked Angeline Richeee.

"Certainly I do Miss Richee---just by the sput of the Red Riding Hood wods near the southeastern part of the christian camps...."Replied the German boy, who had given good atr attention to the conversation, and who knew the route as well as his own name.

"Right indeed.You will do."added Angeline Richees.

And the German boy wentb with Mildred.

The German boy readily understood that he was sent off by Angeline Richee for a purpose, but Penrod had no opportunity to explain his intentions befre he went.It was plain however that a very important part in theplan for frustrating the object of the Glandelinians of getting to the Glandelinian army withthe wagons had been entrs en trusted to

him but he had not a single word of instructions..As the German boy mounted his horse , he saw Penrod and Gertrude Angeline leave the estats and rode off in the direction of the lone railroad, and he dou bted not that they had went to delay the train ifpossible.After t the full and unequivocal indorsement of Gertrude the others were fully established in the confidence of all the other leaders whounreservedly communicated to him his hopes and expectations.George joined Mildred Maxwell, who was to be his companion in this early after noon ride.He always had known since he had been taken on board the raft that Mildred Maxwell was a very swet child, good humored but dignified and severe at times, and jet immensely fond of jokes.

Every o e Every one had great confidence in her, for there had never yet been anything that she could not do.Yet the girl was h armed from head to foot with the long girlscout rifle, two brace of p istols, and three di fferent kind of knives, and hand hanging in a han and had a bang And she had beside the hose w bang hanging full of hand grenades and she looked like a moving arsenal..Though so sweet long, and graceful , despite her age she was a formidable girlscout, and strong.

The young German boy did not lik this duty, for it was so perilious but there was only apparently one way he could dis charge it, and that was by going along with a girlscout who would be his inspiration. All the s carnage and death he had when a prisoner in the foe camp seen in the course of the war------and he had seen much of them---had not impaired his respot for humanlife.He could not wantonly sacrifice even a glande linian enemy though he knew the rules"Girls and boysdouts"Give the enemy no quarter, for they give children no quarter."

Yet he was afraid for her safty too.Glandelinians might suddenly descend upon them the least they suspected danger, and his chivalrous little soul revolted at such a peril.The Glandelinians to him for what he had seen in war were likepossessed men to him, and has as much respot for a little girl or boy of the christian coukries countries as a scared woman has for a rattlesnake .

Thus he reason on the one hand, and therefore he was determined to aid Violet, and her sisters to procure a force to capture the wagon train for the sake to use the wagons to convey the rescued slaves to the main army at Evangeline St Claire and tosecure the provision s intended for the Glandelinian troops u upon which even the unfortunate refugees could recieve their daily bread.This to him was an unusually frightful war.He had known of wars---fighting and ruins only of what the custom of civilised nations justified, while all this he had seen brought on by the Glandelinian armies seemed an act of treachery from which thought he even shrank.War had debased Glandelinia and he feared exceedingly the results in the future if glandelinia was not whipped soon.George did not understand how glandelinia could do this need, the murdering of little children as he had seen them, destroyed so often by the wholesale and in baseness ways which could not be decently even writ tten.It was revolting, worse than barbarous, and yet it was not only done, but flood, fire and all other horrors were now seen.He could not settle the troublesome question and he wondered whatwould be the next move.

"Well My German friend I thought you might like some compan y on yer mission, I supposed, so I came came along to help you." said Mildred.

"Help me?" replied George in his broken Abbiesannian.

"Yes.Don't you think I should help you."?

"Why yes, if you like"said the boy"But the fadt is I should help you."

"Well that's more manly." and she smiled sweetly at him."Have you got any liquid gun in your pocket?"

"I have not.I b never use one."

"So I heard Gertrude mention, but have you got nothing stowedaway about you besides pistols and your rifle---any squirt gun or such like?"

"I h v have not miss ."

"Well George I tell you it is a great mistake coming off without a squirt gun."

"I don't think so."

"Don't you George."

"I can get along very well without it."

"Maybe you think you can George, but yu can't.Neither can I.They come in more handy with ammonia when attacked suddenly and at close quarters by Glandelinians. IT's lucky I hadone."

"But you and I got grw grenades."

"That is true George but sometims that don't do any good either. Enemy cavarly carry them too.They are like dragons feeding on us kids you know, and if we were overwhelmed we could no more take a chance without squirt guns than we could to go into a big sink hole in the dark, for I take it it can't be taking chances.Didn't any one supply you with one."

"No.I will have to go without it.I don't want to ask you for yours. It ain't right."

"I suppose not."" exclaimed Mildred.Look there's a house over there a good distance.That's the place where Virginia and the other scouts may be assembled.I sure like to beat the Glandelinians up good and proper. And besides making mercilless war on us kids they always have food and plenty when we poor kids has tohunger for meat and thirst for water, and be compelle to drink a little brandy because the water is spoiled orpoisoned by the disasters.Mylet;e it is a terrible sort of general.But we should not need to have any fear.I have a safe conduct and can dare to go into his lines if I choose to do so to find out information."

"But if you even have a safe conduct you can't even then compell the Glandelinians to give you anything."

"I know, but I can show the cavarly at the rear of the wagon train the paper and we won't be suspected or molested.".

"I bet they won't trust us, or won't read it."said George.

"Why not."?

"Well Mildred, they ain't well up to print I'm sure, from my experiende in Manleys camp, say nothing of writing of passes they know nothing about."

"Well if they make a fuss about it I can tell them it was all a mistake---don't you see George.Maybe I might play half wit too."

"Perhaps that won't fool them either."

"Then we would go to the other world for certain. "

"Very likely they might give you wa what you want if you asked them and did not approach them in your purple uniform.".

"No they won't George"she said laughing."I just said these things to try yor wit.I know them Glandelin ians more than you do.They hate us kids of the Abbiesnnians west than posion, and if they got hold of me you'd be shocked at what they would do.We girls and boys ain't supposed to hate them I s believe, but its the rule just the same for us all not to give the Glandelinians any quarter."

"What would the Glandelinians do to us if they had us prisoners."

"_idn't you ever hear of the massacred of children in this war.?"

"Yes.I sure have."

"Well they'd do the same to us.It stands to reason such Glandelinians ought to be hated as much as they hate us."

George decided not to discuss this question, and said"Let's not talk of such awful scenes Miss.It's more than I can hear.It sickens me at th- the stomch.

"All right.But she added---""Have you ever seen our Girlscout Irisne."?

"No is she a new girl.?"

"No but she's not been on the raft but r i rei rs remained in camp here."

"Is she an Abbiesnnian girl ?"asked George."

"Bet she is."

"You don't think any Glandelin ians will com in sight and meddle with us T hope."

"What makes you fear that?" demanded Mildread supsiciously.

"Don't you remember Penrod saying, that the scoun s country is being swarmed like flies on a dead body with parties of Glandelinian cavarly. here and there."

"Yes."

"Are you a very shrewd girlscout, Mildred?"

"I couldn't con i confide myself on that.But I try to be."

"A true blue good soldier, respects a girl little or big,whether she be a friend or a foe."

"Georh George, your ideas is a little too fine cut for me."said Mildred."If you think that of all Glandelinians then you didn't have much experience with them."

"Have you had any had encounters?"

"I should say so.A Glandelinian once ran at me with a drawn sabre and another almost strangled me to death one day."

"Have you a mother Mildred.?"

"No"said she sadly.

"In the dead?"

"She was killed by a Glandelinian."

"Have you no sister, nor a brother."

"I did have but they too were killed by the same man.That's what made me become a girlscout."

"See here Mildred, you can draw your charge on that.We all one way or the other have some grevience onthe enemy, and I'd like to see them draw any strin ge on me now.Germans are tough Mildred, don't you know that Mildred."

"Very well, I have nothin g to say, only that, if you propose that we are in danger we can be very cautious.But I am your best friend and as advised you to be watchful."

"How good are your weapons?"

George took a pistol from his belt, and deliberately aimed it at the branch of a tree and brought it down with two shots.It was a narrow one at that.It was naturally supposed that a boyscout who like ,ildred carried such an armory of weapons on his person wa was as dangers dangerous a foe to the glandelin ians as any others of the girls and boyscouts.

"So if any glandelinians coms at you first.""said the boy"I can get them fist."

"Don't shoot too often."said Mildred with a lugh."The noise might bring Glandelinians upon us.

"We are not quite ready to put it up."replied George for he had made up his mind that the time to execute any task i imposed upon him had come. "when a Glandelinian soldier draws a pistol upon a a girl companion of mine he insults me."

"I can see what sort of stuff you are made of George."said Mildred."

"I am not satisfdd with anything yet.I would lik to know what sort of stuff those Glandelin ians might be made off."said George"Sometimes from what the Glandelinians have done I believe the wholevnation is possessed by demons."

"I am p p ositive you are right.Glandelin ia has insulted the whole christian world."

George hadput up his pistol.He had discovered that Mildred was as game as he was, and he felt sure he and she would be just the right sortbin sort in an em- emergency."

They rode along in silence for some time till they reached a house much superior to most of those they had seen on the road, at which Mildred hearing sounds inside halted.

"Nom e of the girlscouts seems to be around, George."said Mildred as she reined in her steed.

"Is this the house where we were supposed d to meet Virginia?"

"No.James was sent there.This is near the cross roads where we are to wait for the train o of wagons coming into sight.I only want to investigate this house,"and she rode up the la lane by the house, followed by her companion.I won'tstop only for a second."

Mildred dismounted and throwing the bridle rein of her horse over a post, she entered, when there was no knocking no response to her knocking.When she had gone in, George rode forward till he came to the windes of the house for he was fearful that enemies might be inside and he was disposed to defend her in case she was in danger even at the peril of his life.Mildred was absent some time---longer than a due regard for the urgency of her mission would have tolerated.It was evid evident that she had not procured whatever she went in for,and if enemies were within he feared she might meet with some violence.He feared the delay indicated trouble within the house, and just as George dismounted and fastened his huse to the gate and was walking tward the house, she came out.Just as she did so they heard a piercing scream somewhere outside in the woods beyond.

TnThe two s child scouts mounted their horses and rode hastily in the direction of the sound.

"Don't yell you little guttersnipe"They heard some one cry out as they came closer."I only want you to sign this paper.Anyhow no one is here to hear you if you do yell."

George stopped at the edge of the woods where he saw the scene presented before him, for indignant as he was, he and also Mildred were always prudent.They cocked their pistols and tooka survey of the situation.

"I tell you I do not know anything about the Christian armies, and have not never been near one."replied a young girl who appared to be of about eighteen or nineteenyyears of age, and who was well dressed, and who was quite attractive.

"You can tell that to a moaning ghost, and he'd take your life out for it."added a man who appeared to wear a christian uniform."You ran from the house but I caught you."

"I have told you the truth, t I do not know anything about the christian army that is so close to my home."

"It is not so, all my comrades know you know something avout those dirty Christian dogs.Now give us the information woman!"and as he spoke he grasped the lady by the arm roughly. she evidently regarded his touch so worst th an the rottenoust pollution, and she screamed again most lustily.

"See here Fr woman christian dog don't be so darned touchy.I ain't going to hurt you if you tell me what I want to know."

"Father, Mother"cried the terrified girl a shrinking from the man who evidently was a spy who attacked women to try and get the information out of them. George and Mildred would have fired, but they feared the report and the death of the Glandelinian brute before her face would be too great a shock for the lady.she evidently was badly frightened, but as the children hoped she had perfect control over herself.

"Say girlie won't you give me the information. "continued the Glandelinian; and again he attempted to seize the arm of the girl who fled before him through the woods tward the house.

"Father, Father"she screamed again."Father."

The o two child scouts stepped into the room to intercept the rascal as he should enter, and at the same instant an elderly man and stillmore elderly woman rushed in by a door on the opposite side of the apartment.

The gem gentleman and woman who entered the room from the opposite side were evident her parents.They both were unarmed, but there was a long army rifle hanging against the wall.The old gentleman was out of breath from hurry and excitement, and was hardly in condition to confront the Glandelinian scoundrel, who was just as bold todefy him as he was of any one else for though he could torment a timid woman yet the scoundrel though could be called a coward was as daring as a lion and would face the mouth of a machine gun.

"What do you want here!""demanded the old man, in a most excited tone.

"Nothing Squre, but an information concerning the christian lines."replied the rascal, glancing at fist the girl and the man.

"I'm a professional Glandelinian sir, and you Christian dogs cannot cheat me.I was born among even you Christian dogs, and I can smell a christian army twenty miles off."

"I have told you the truth.Ad so has my daughter."

"No you haven't.Give me the information squire."added the man taking one of his pistols from his belt.

"I have a safe conduct from the general of this department."said the old man."Here it is."

"I cannot waste time to read it stranger.I don't want to read it either.

"Perhaps you willread it kids."said the man thinking at fist they may be the scoundrels mascot, walking across the room, and handing it to George.

"Don't you touch it kid."said the Glandelinian angrily. George sneered took the paper, glanced at it, and handed it back to the owner.

"Are you satisfdd "Asked the old man to the rebel as the boy had read it aloud."

"I am"said George.

"That ain't none of yor your business kids.And bes because you are kid scouts it is not your business that you should s n spoil my efforts. But I'm going to have the information.Now squire willyou tell us who is in command of this vast christian army here or will you refuse!"

"I do not know,and I would not tell you if I did."

"You won't!"said the Glandelinian, raising his pistol, and before the children could realise he intended to fire, he discharged the piece at the old woman.

"Oh my poor Mother,"screamed the young girl,rushing tward her.

"What doyou mean you D aten villian."cried George, elevating his pistol, and instantly firing.

"See here keed, that ain't your business."replied the Glandelinian. "I'm not interfering with you.Who are you!Christian dogs too!"

Of course in the smoke that fillled the room George had missed his aim and the Glandelinian was entisly concealed from him or Mildred.

"Leave the house you male cur."Shouted Mildred.

"Not till I get my information.I'll get it too.I haven't killed the "old Woman" though I'll confess I meant to kill her, I only scared the old cat a little."Say he now you'll give me the information now Squire."

"I have not as I told you a moment before."replied the old man.The girl and boy walked up to the rascal with leveled pistols and demanded;

"Now willyou leave the house."

"Come boy and girl, don't be so touchy,I want himto give me informat ion"said the rascal evi v evidently notpleased with the newaspects of affairs.

"Leave this house."replied Mildred with utmost dignity.

The Glandelinian finding that it was of nouse use to argue the point with two child scouts armed like arsenals and realizing they were christians slowly slowly backedout at the door by which he had en er entered.

"Shoot the scoundrel"Mildred"said George.

"He deserves to be shot for this outrage but I can't shoot a man down in cold blood."added Mildred indignantly."

"You two christian sprites willpay for this."continued the rascal as he left the house and walked tward the horse.

"Begone or you are a dead man.".

"I thank you for your timely assistance"returned the man."You are my friends."

At this moment the door by which the owner of the house had at first entered was thrown wide open, and the two children discovered the rascal, who had without their knowledge gone round the house,-and an sneaked in by another entrance.The dirty wretch, which shows how glandelinians are instably raised his long rifle and opened fire on both the children. The shots missed George and Mildred, the old man dropped heavily on the floor, his wife followed suit,sand his daughter uttered a dreadful scream of agony as she threw herself on the bodies.

"That is the way we Glandelinians settle the stake of vile christian hound curs."shouted the man adding of course a volume of words which decent people do not wish to read or hear.Mildred who had returned the pistol to her belt holster drew it again, and opened a return fire in the direction of the door, though the smoke prevented her from seeing the f r form of the lone Glandelinian.He however had time to rush out of the house,and disappeared.

"Quick "Gasped Mildred."I'll follow him.You George try and cut him off.Un derstand!"

George didn't answer but followed the scoundrel, determined to be the fist to get him.Unfortunately the scoundrel to turned to the right, while the Glandelinian went to the left, and when he had passed around the house to the meadow, he discovered the scoundrel, already mounted and spurring his horse away from his bloody scene.

Both Mildred and George sprang into their own saddles, and started wildly in persuit.They were determined to avenge the poor old couple and to discharge a duty which was imposed upon them, now made easy by the crime of the glandelinian wretch.They urged forward their good hoses to the utmost speed, and gained rapidly opn upon him Mildred going one way, and George the other.The Glandelinian who could insult a young girl, and shoot an old man and woman, had a terrible fear of his two little persuers, for hekn ew that though only likt little children, child scouts in the christian army were worse than even two tigresses.He saw that George was the fist togain upon him, and he unslung his rifle, and while his horse was at full speed turned and fired at George.The bullet hit George horse and killed itunder him, and George was thrown.He got to his feet and fired again ad again but missed the scoundrel!Mildred did not stop to see whether Georg was allrightjust then but urged on her steet steed.The rascal for some unknown reasonof his own, perhaps for somepurpose of putting into operation some method of dodging his girl persuer which he had learned in cavarly fi h fighting now turned into an open field.whatever might have been the results of the scen scene under other circumstances, it was fatal to him in this present instance, for while the glandelinian soldier was proceeding in a direction at right angles with the road, Mildred dashed full speed into the field and cut him off by taking a diagonal of the square, while the rascal was following the side.He had not noticed a low stretch of groud partially

covered with mud and water which compelled him to give Mildred this advantage. He turned and fired at Mildred three times while his horse went faster but the bullets did not come near her.Mildred then elevated her own revolver, and taking careful aim fired twice. The Glandelinian was seen to throw up his arms, spring upward into the air from the saddle ad drop to the ground, while his horse dashed on at an increased speed, when relieved of his heavy burden.

At this moment George came running up.

"Good work Mildred he said,"Now our work is done."as Mildred drew in her panting steed.

The boy led the wayback to the spot where the Glandelinian had fallen.Mildred then dismounted and bent over the body to ascertain the result of her shot.The ball of Georges must have been the onethat struck the Glandelinian in the left side, and had evidently passed through his side or his heart too, while Mildreds shot had struck him in the had, for he was evidently evidently dead.The old man and woman was avenged. Mildred herself took from the cpo corpse of the Glandelinian, two rifles, four pistols and six knives.There was something projecti g projecting from the breast pocket of the rascals coatwhich looked like a bundle of papers, and the little girlscout, ever intent upon procuring all the information she could get drew it forth.She was not mistaken, it was a very large bundle of papers, and amon g others there was a note from general Cannonia to general Beppo Evans, but it was only an order for him to proceed forthwith to jo njoin Myletze as soon as possible, stating that the "Wrath-of God"s army was barring the way near Elenor Creek.Inasmuch as the glandelinian was now dead Mildred believed the remainder of the paers could have no connection with the bearer, but Mildred was too much impressed by the nearness of the dead man,and by the necessity of prudence in her present condition to waste the time to examine them there, and therefore shput them into her pocket for future inspection.

Slinging the two rifles upon his back, while Mildred placed the other weapons in her belt, he helped her mount the horse, and then she got on herself.As they were about to depart, the animal which had been ridden by the glandelinian, came walking leasurel leisurely up the road, as if in search of his lost lwden.When he saw the two children he went up to hi them, and allowed himself to be taken.He was a docile creature, ed and had been well trained by his late master.Leading the horse they returned to the house where the tragedy had occured a to ascert i ascertain the fate of the old man and woman, and to report the result of the persuit.

"He found the house in great commotion.The few servants which the old couple had been able to retain were bustling about the house but as is always the case with a panic doing absolutely nothing. Mildred gave the horses into the keeping of a servant, and having placed the weapons taken from the dead soldier in a back room, entered the house.He found by the direction which the servants had taken, where the dead or wounded couple lay, for both Mildred and George had not waited to learn their fate before they went in persuit of the wretch who had done the wicked deed.The girl and boy entered the apartment and were glad to find that their worse fears had not wrong.The couple were not dead, but the old lady appeared to be the more severely wounded.Her eyes were open, and she was gazing with a languid look of affection ,at her daughter, who was bending over the bed.

"There he is again."she faintly exclaimed, as the two child scouts entered the room.

"We are not Glandelinians, Mrs"said Mildred"On the contraty contrary we are girl and boyscouts of the Abbiecannian army on the staff of Miss Angelinia Aronburg commanding the eleventh and Twelvth Corps."

"Impossible"You are that Glandelinian."Groaned the poor woman who was still half unconscious.

"No Mother"they are the two little child scouts who defended us Mother"interposed the daughter,"And I heard the little boy order ty the man to leave the ho e house."

"If you do not believe it, you will find the rascals horse in your stable, and all his weapons in your back room."

"Go and see Mammie"said the old man,"For we know not whom to trust."

George was selected to conduct the lady herself, that is the young girl to the back room, and showed her the weapons, then led her to the stable, where the servan t had taken the horse.

"If you still think it is not true Miss, you may send one of your servants to a field on the right of the road about a mile and a half from here, and he will find the body of the dead Glandelinian soldier. for such he was, and a spy, well rid of."

"I believe everything my dear boy-for I noticed the horse when the rebel rode into the yard."replied the young girl."How did you come in time to protect yo&& us!"

George told her, and then fin ished with"I and my girl friend fired at the scoundrel a moment after he discharged hispistol at your mother but the smoke in the room spoiled my aim, and I was unfortunate to miss him.I and my girl friend also fired at him when your mother and father fell, as you must have noticed."

"I heard four shots, but I was not sure who had fired them."

"I thought he had gone when he left the house, but it seems he went round and sneaked in again by another door.I should have known these ruffians are base enough to kill an old man or woman lik your father and mother, when they are cruel enough to murder children, and we should have shot him in the first place when I saw him tormenting you in the woods.I did not wish however to do so in your presence."

"I sure indeed would have enjoyed it."

"Is your father and mother badly injured."?

"I do not know how bad their injuries are, but father was struck in the the back near the spine, and mother was struck in the shoulder.I and they have trembled every day for fear of these Glandelinians , but we did not think any would come as we are so close to the verge of the christ ian camps."

"Have you sent for a surgeon?"asked George.

"We have no horse at home, and the nearest surgeon lives fifteen miles from us."

"Take the dead mans horse, and go into the christian campsfor a doctor."

"Thank you, I will send a man at once."

A man was immediately dispatched on the horse tward the christian lines for a docter, and Both George and Mildred went with the lady to the room of her wounded father and mother.George himself examined the wounds and ventured to assure the two sufferers that they were not dangerous ones.When wounded herself often mildred had seen the surgeon operate and she had some idea of the methods employed.The old man himself was bleeding freely, and by changing hisposition on the bed, and by pressing a cloth around the wound she with the help of the mans daughter checked the flow of blood.

So close was the Christian lines that it was only half an hour before the surgeon arived.He was a personal friend of the old couple so it turned out to be, and came with all haste as soon as the boy found him.The doctor came but the messenger did not return, and both children believed that the hose and and rider had been seen and taken by the girlscouts under Virginia who might have mistook him for a run away from the lines.The two were greatly perplexed in regard to their future movements ,and though the young lady offered and pressed upon them the hospitality of the house, they decided to depart as soon as the surgeon had assured them that the couple were not dangerously wounded.Leaving the Glandelinians weapons at the house, which they advised the lady to conceal, they mounted their hoses, and rode away with the purpose to find Virginia and and Irene's bands and h asten the carrying out of the conspiracy to capture the wagon train.

The attack upon the Glandelinian wagon train was to be made at Heidi)s Cross Roads, or in that direction, but it was not prudent for them to be seen-near that locality after what happened if there were any big parties of glandelinian cav arly roaming around, and he decided to therefore go forward to find Virginia and Irlene Irene.After ridin g a couple of miles, as he turned a band in the road on the verge of the wood, they suddenly came upon Virginia's force, which had halted there.

The girlsc Girlscouts and their horses stood so still in the road that Mildred and George had not suspected their presence.If they had been Glandelinians his fast their fast impulse would have been to wheel their horses and flee with all speed , but then if they were, and to

turn away to make a run of it would have been sure to bring a volley from their long carbines upon them, and to advance would be to have faced the same peril.But they were their own friends, and the fact that the dead soldiers horse which had been ridden by the man sent to get the doctor had not returned was pretty good evidence that he had been captured by the girls and boys,and their presence in this place proved it.The man who had been captured had probably told his story, but no doubt he was not believed.

The two continued on their way untill they reached the squadron.With these girls was an immense body of White Winkie Abyssinkilini cavarly. "Why are you here Mildred!"demanded Virginia shaking hands with her friend."I thought you was with Gertrude.!"

"I was."Then she related her errand and told about the coming of the train."

"From where's it coming!"

"I don't know where it is now, but its coming from the south I believe.But I will tell you one thing thing virginia.This prisoner you have is all right.He is on the horse of a glandelinian whom we killed." nd she told the story of that adventure.

"This is bad business."said Virginia. "A rebel shooting an old couple.But this expedition proposed by Gertrude is also bad business."

"No it isn't, it's all the beter for us."said Irene, stepping forwar forward to the rescue."You know the Princesses want that train if they can secure it."

"Perhaps it is, but I don't see it, "added this girlscout captian, and turly it must haveone been very difficult to see.

"You musn't be dull captian Virginia."continued Ma jor Irene with her usual easy assurance."You and Peggy and others believe in stratgy, and look troubled at a little difficulty like this."

"Did you give the horsd horse to the messenger who went for that doctor!" demanded Virginia of George and Mildred.

"Bah"exclaimed Irene with heq hearty disgust."What matter whether they did or not?Are you going to settle a case of that kind right now when we haveno time to waste.?I tell you it is all right."

"What shall we do."

"Do!"Sneered Irene.We will help Violet, and her sisters capture the wagon train at Heidi's Crossroads, as they planned.We are not going to be thrown off the tradk by a little incident of this kind."

" Of course not."replied the girlscout Ranger, catching the inspr ation of her bolder and prettier companion.

"L eave those Glan el Glandelinian dogs to me"Continued Irene."I will have them ten miles from from here within two hours."

"Good murmured a number of the girlscout Rangers.

"Itappears the Glandelinian wagon train had been delayed, and therefore we shall have time to bring up gertrudes force yet.I want two of your girls to go with me.I will take Joan and Martha."

"What do you want of them!"Demanded Virgin ia.

"Martha shall go to Gertrudes for our girl and boyscouts there, and Joan shall return to inform you when to come forward.If you should be seen it would spoil the whole thing.By the way.How many men have you as your escort for the interprize."?

"I5,000."

"Good."T that willdo you so far.But we'll nedd at least fifty thousad."

Virginia consented to this plan, and Irene followed by H Joan and Martha rode off at full gallop.Mildred did nd seem to be at all conscious that she had very color cleverly performed the part she had assumed in the drama.Yet she sure looked as determined as though she hadintended to carry out the very program e programme assigned to her by general Concentinian Aronburg.

"What are you going todo Mildred!"asked George, when they had ridden about a mile.

"The infernal Glandelinian cutthroats, child murderers."exclaimed she savagely."Not only do I intend to capture just the wagon train but the whole crowd of Glandelinians with it.The first batch however that shows fight recieves no quarter."

"But you have no force Mildred."

"I'll have one."said she with energy. "Viol t violet, and her sisters have suffered much and what it is osaid poor Jennie went through when in the hands of that brute Augustinia St Claire makes me as wild as a leopard."

"Miss Maxwell"said Joan with the utmost deference and respect.

"Understand my purpose!I'm going back to the christian lines where Gertrude and her fors are and where she promised to remain untill she heard from me."

"Are you sure she will follow immediately or wait vor violet and her sisters!"asked George.

"I'm positive, she has sent to general Aronburg asking for a force of cavarly men.N ow George if we are as smart as they think we are, we will report to Violet,and her sisters before to night, with the wagon train and the whole Glandelinian cavarly escort as prisoners to boot.We have got things now where we can have it our own way, and it will be our own fault if we don't bag the whole squad.Then if we are successful Gertrude will petition Violet or any of her sisters for your commission in our army of scouts."

"If Virginia has a fifteen thousand squadron, we can take them at once even if the foe number is thirty thousand."

"I propose to haul in the whole company---those that are with the wagon train and those that are coming.We have no time to lose."D Continued Mildred with increased energy.Joan you must go to Gertrudes, and deliver this message which I'll write to her."

"I'm v willing "replied joan."I have the captians written order in my own hand.Virginia made it out for me."

"Good that is right.Kill your hose if necessary but don't lose an instant of time.Away with you."

"But I don't know the road."

Mildred instructed her very carefully in regard to her route.

"When you have delivered the order or directions to her look out for yourself too."she added as Martha put spurs to her willing hose and dashed away to execute her important mission.

"Now Irene, in one hour go and tell Violet, and her sisters that the road is open for them."added Mildred, as she took the hand of this pretty girlscout which she pressed with warmpth."Girl you are always true to your country and your flag and I know you will be faithful in all perils though you are new."

"I will, I will."exclaimed the girl, with deep feeling, as she wiped away the tears, which for some unexplained reason filled her eyes.

Mildred ,apparently as deeply moved as this young girlscout galloped away at a furious pace.Beyond the wood she turned to the right , r crossing the creek, and the railroad , avoiding the flood, till she reached another road nea nearest the christian lines.This point was Heidi's Crossroads,and here she turned to the right again, and was now moving directly toward the christian lines, and she soon had an immense squadron of cavarly moving t down toward the cross roads.When the force arived at its destination one half of it wasposted in a secure place beyond the railroad, near the dirt road where it could not bee be seen by the approach ing cavarly guarding the wagon train as they advanced to the enemy lines and the other half in the vinicity of the cross roads.Quite as soon as they were expected, the large troop of the Glandelinian cavarly fist hoved into sight crossing the railroad and moving swiftly but cautiously toward the point at which they expected to pull on the wagon train to the lines.But s no sooner had they passe e the dirt road tye then the force of christian troopers in their rear took the road and cut off their retreat, while that in front advanced upon them.For a few moments there was a severe clash of arms, but after a short fight, the Glandelinians overwhoomed w are born borne under and captured by the cavarly without the loss of a single man, and almost without a scratch on either side. The large number of prisoners were conduced to a safe place, and the cavarly now joined by those of the others coming from Virginia and her scouts again disposed for the reception of the train and the larger force expected to be in its rear.The Glandelinians were intensely astonished at the unexpected attack and capture and their leaders looked exceedingly foolish and disconsolate.When the prisoners were halted in a secure position, one of the leaders happened to see Virginia.

"How's this girlscout!"said he appealing to the energitic girlscout.

"Who are you addressing Cat!"asked she with admirable simplicity.

"You are a girlscout in a gray uniform."aven'y you made a blunder somewhere,"

"Not at all.Everything has com out just as I intended it should."

"Then you are a traitor or a christian dog spy girl in disguise."

"On the contrary I am a true Abbiesannian girlscout, and this is not a Glandelinian gray I'm wearing.This is a Calverinian uniform.I go for our cause only."

"Traitor all of you."growled the Glandelinian chaftian."You are stealing our wagon train."

"See here my man, you believe in the strategy of war---don't you!!!!""

"I surely do."

"So do I ."replied Virginia."I think you too have got strategy enough to last you till the end of the war.You Glandelinians take our wagon trains too.All is fair in war you know. "

"You decieved me then."added the officer bitterly."I'm a scoodlier."

"So I see.Do no you know what that word means.?"

"Yes."

Then I don't need to explain it.Decieved you."sneered the girl."Di I you think I or my other girls and boys would throwourselves into your bearlike arms and let you Glandelinian dogs butcher us kids at your own pleasure like you always do.I know what you are "Scoodliers, not De Banyans as we heard---"Two faces"I had beter say.Decieved you.I never saw you before.I also shouldn't want a more stupid and crazier fellow than you are to work upon.You and your troopers have been playing into our hands all the way through, and we got you....."

"What is to d be done with us ?"asked the discomfited, officer this time more tamely."

"As the troopers will see fit.We shall see to t you are marched to headquarter s, but as a man of yer importance ought to have and may have a bigger escort guarding the approaching train, we shall try to add the rest of your gang to your number of prisoners or destroy them one or the other.If they show fight we'll give no quarter.So there."

Virginia walked away, mounted her horse,, and rode down to the cross roads again,where a great cavarly battle was soon to be fought.Irene who had disengaged herself from her companions at the beginning of the affray was directed to keep some considerable distance from the strife.

Martha delivered her message to Gertrude,and her whole band and those select d selected by Violet and her sisters, all soldiers immediately leaped into their saddles.The note from Virginia and also that from Mildred relieved the bearer of all suspicion of danger in the interprize ,and Gertrude only questioned her in regard to the nature of the operations in which her forces were to engage.Martha answered as suited herself, and then finding that she could go, the officers and men being busily occupied in preparing for their excusi excursion she contrived to detatch herself from their company to detail a force of her own Gaining the high way, she rode at a les leisure gait, till she was out of their sight, and reached her own force in advance of that of Gertrudes, and then she quickly brought them and made a junction.

The wagon train with the bigger body of Glandelinian cavalry were now crossing the rail-oad itself without a suspicion that they were plunging into a fatal trap, till they heard the clatter of hoses hoofs behind..The big bodies of christian cavarly in the rear; which was to open the cavarly battle dashed upon the Glandelinian cavarly with a force tumultous shout..The Glandelinians however were the most desperate kind of men.These Glandelinian cavarly had been plundering, murdering, massacring children and victims of defenseless towns and destroying most ruthlessly and without mercy, and the fear of a righteous retribution upon their heads nerved them to the most determined action, and a cavarly battle as fierce as if all the cavarly in the American rival war would have fought together in this one spot raged at Heid-'s Crossroads.They were hardly engaged before the christian cavarly in front rushed with headlong sped upon the entrapped foe.It was a good-opportunity indeed better than they had ever hoped to enjoy, but the Glandelin ians fought like raging demons, and even four times worsted severely their most superior numbers of the christians, but again the christian troopers with a hearty relish for the work rushed into the fight with a ferocity and an enthusiasm which could only result sooner or later in good and crushing victories.The conflict was long and terrific, every one fighting fierce and savage dules of allsorts but finally threatened with annihilation the survivors of the Glandelinians began to retreat and finally were thoroughly and completely routed..T ere was an awful cutting, and slashing for a few minutes during even the recoilment.The Glandelinians were utterly demolished, they finally broke, and some attempted to set fire to the wagons, even the drivers tried it and were killed in the act, and the remainder of the Glandelinians made fierce attempts to flee from the scene of carnage, but not many of them escaped.

"The train is captured."said Mildred, as she joined George a little after the conflict."

"The work was sure well done"said Violet herself, as she returned her sabre to its scabbard."I thinkwe won't be delayed very long now."

"The wounded which ammounted to about six thousand of the christian side were sent tward the lines, the prisoners about three thousand secured, and the wagon train took its its march for the christian army.On the way Mildred, George, Irene and also Martha, and even Virginia kept together. It was the first time these girlscout officers, had found an opportunity to communicate in regard to the past. George too knew little of who Irene was and what she was do n doingas this was the fist time he had seen her but he opened a way for an explanation by relating her own or h by Mildred relating her own adventures with the Glandelinian, and how after he had killed George's hose, she shot the scoundrel herself.

"I thought you would shoot him the moment you saw what that cut throat was doing."said Virginia.

"I couldn't shoot the fool down in cold blood.I intended to use a little strategy when the proper time came."declared Mildred.

"I'm afraid Mildred you are too sentimental by half.If he had been a soldier, and a decent man, any of us might have hesitated.All these Glandelinian skunks are nothing but cold blooded wretches, cut throats, and child murderers, you ought to have shot himwithout winking twice when you saw what he was doing.I would have done it no matter what the young lady would have thought."

"I couldn't do it."But Virti Virginia what have you been doing for all these days we have been away from you on the raft."

"Nothing in particulat.General Aronburgs army had been inactive for a spell."

"Could I ask you one question, notout of curiousity Gertrude?"Asked George.

"What is it please?"

"Who is Irene. She looks almost your double, and if Penrod sees her he may think she is a spy putting on your features.You know he would take no more chances after his early morning experience."

"Never fear.She is Irene Maxwell my eldest sister.She always stays with general Aronburg."

"Never been in any army.?"

"No."

Indeed George had been greatly mystified ever since he had seen her by the singular conduct of Iri Irene, and quite semuch so by the almost likeness of Mildred to the girl.He remembered to have heard Mildred say, when they werevon the raft during that eventful trip down the flood, that she had an elder sister, prettier than herself, and now it appeared that she had been in the service of Gertrudes army of scouts, but had remained behind in Aronburgs army, while her sister Mildred had been actively engaged on the raft. Before the war Irene Maxwell had been the most confidential friend and companion of her younger sister to an extent seldom seen even in two girls who live good pious lin lives. She was her only sister however, and between them there was a bond of sympathy, which nothing had been able to affect.Mildred had entered the scout army at first sorely against her will just to escape the fury of the Glandelinian soldiery, but getting used to it like it better than anything, and now enjoyed all the thrilling adventures.In entering the army she had been seprated from her parents and sister hoping however to meet her again in a few months at the farthest.she had been gerviously disappointed in this respect for the sweep of the fierce Glandelinian army had been so speedy and d decided; that her parents had beenobliged to flee to Calverine for safty.Then later the elder sister seeing it seemed to be the only safty had first taken service in general Aronburgs army where her ability as a girlscout was soon discovered.It took however a lot of red tape and two months for her to get the commission, as all girls and boys cannot get in.They have to be well learned, healthy, and strong, braver than any one known and to have the good qualities of handling weapons, knowing signals and so forth. Like thousands of others who became girl and boyscouts and joined general Aronburgs army they at fist had or she at fist had no principal in the matter and only went to save herself from the foe for it was extremely dangerous outside the army.She was now happily restored to her devoted younger sister,. George and Irene were immediately the best of friends, and

during the remainder of the afternoonin, as they rode along tward the army with the wagon train in advance, Irene asked George a thousand questions about his knowledge of scouting and the home and accos associations of his other girlscout and boy companions, and also of the boys own home Company(Nothing he was ordered) and she evidently profited by the information given in the answers to the questions.

An hour later they had the pleasure of being back in General A o Aronburgs army once more, and at the news of the capture of the wagon train every body recieved cheers and a most he arty welcome.

They were also warmly commended or praised by violet, and her sisters for the work the girl and boyscouts themselves had done in helping capturing capture the wagon train, which it was hoped would terrifyt the clandalinian cavarly who were the past of the region, the contin uni anbyance also of general Aronburgs army communications and an uisance to all the defenseless towns and villiages, and among the christian families of the region outside the flood, and fire zone.The violet, and her sisters conversed freely with Gertrude, Hirmir, and others, and immediately assigned them to duty in their respective positions.

"Gertrude my dear girl friend I greet you."exclaimed a boyscout riding up just for or at that mom moment."I have come from the christian army under general charles Brown.I suppose you don't remember me."

"Gertrude looked at the boy very closely; and though she did recognize him she could not place him, or makout again who he was.

"I see you don't remember me"he said laughing."

"Thank you captian;"replied gertrude "But though I do recognize your face I cannot remember your name."

"Don't you remember one of those child slaves in that factory in Andreas so long ago, who helped you in your plotted insurrd insurrection against the Clandalinians."?

"Frankie Somers."gasped Gertrude."Is it really you."

"It sure is."

"Frankie Somers I am sure glad to greet you."exclaimed Gertrude in surprise and joy."No ;

"Thank you Gertrude,"replied the boy, warmily grasping the proferred hand of the girlscout general:

"You are the one in many boyscouts whom I have not who am worthy to be a regular."said Gertrude."How did you become a boyscout?"

"Your disguised sis---"Gertrude suddenly put her finger to her mouth and the boy understanding went on"your boy friend Frankie Radcliffe got me the position.I had to go through all the taps you know but I got through."

"You are fortunate to have got here;"said Gertrude; explaining her position."

"I congratulate you Gertrude.I hear that you have been fighting Clandalinians like a soldier.Is that true Gertrude?"

"I have been fighting a little."

"I am sory you have a taste for those squabbles."

"But I do not go into the fights:The soldiers do that;I only do it.I would only go into them from complete necessity:But our fight to capture the wagon train for the princesses was a splendid piece of strategy:I will tell you about it." Gertrude told him, and the boyscout was satisfied, though he declared he didn't like it that she or other girls should have any relish for battles.

"Well captian Somers; how is general Vivian" asked Gertrude when the relative merits of brain and muscle had been duly discussed.

" I've not been in his army but I hear he is a diamond among all our precious stones."replied the boy, with enthusiasm."I heard he knocked the backbone out of the two clandalinian armies under Federal and Hanley at Tighten Creek or Evangeline st claire.He drove the enemy through Trin ogue:By the way Gertrude I remember the general when hewas at Cedarmine Creek."

"Were you there in that frightful battle storm?"

"I was."

"You don't seem to sho show it:"

"I was t o though.He could prove it to you:I remember him at Headrick Junction."

"I was there"added one of Gertrudes boyscouts."

"He fought like a legion of fiends against the enemy; as he has done everywhere else since; and went up like a rocket from second lieutenant general to lieutenant colonel general.He is what I call a positive good

fighting man, he has his own thinking, and planning, and directing, which fortunately for him in many instances agrees with the thinking of all others.He is often with Emperor Vivian, Benson, and others, who are all making the enemy wish the war had never started now."

"But I heard the general was transferred from general Vivians army."

"Yes he had been transferred, for he is such an active man that other armies needed him badly.The whole nation never has forgotten about his conduct at Cedarmine, all himpositive opinions are remembered, and he was asked for by many superior officers.He is one of the luckiest men for our nation."

"That is so."exclaimed George,with emphasis."Though I was a prisoner in the rea lines I've seen his troops in many big fights, and I say he sure knows how to push forward an assault or hold his ground grounds.He has no superior in the army."

"I am not very fond of comparisons between generals, but I can and will say I like him better than any other:"added Gertrude."All the generals are sensitive to the situation our country is in, and they will do anything to save Calvarinia from dissillusion."

"That may be, but I think too some of our military operations in the war have failed because the commanding general in charge could not be fairly supported because of these disasters or owning to these floods, explosions, devastation by the enemy and forest fires, or the enemy trying to frustrate the advanc e advance of reinforcing armies."

"That's true, but there's a great difference, between that an and beingout witted by the enemy in spirit as well as in other ways. General Robertsonin Vivian never had allowed any movement uptlon of the enemy to endanger for o he moment the success of our cause."said Frankie Somers."He would fight under a sergeant or a corporal rather than lose the day any time."

"I know that answered Gertrude,"But I can't help feeling that if it were not for these disasters, we would have the enemy out of Calvarinia to day."

"A positive man speaks what he thinks, and I doubt not General Vivian had often gained the cradict of his superior generals by his candid candid criticisms of the enemy.Nothing can rob him of the glory of the past.Whatever he is doing,whatever i he intends to do,and wherever he goes, I'm with him to the end."said the boy."

"So am I"said the German boy.

"There will be something done in our army pretty soon."continued Gertrude."The heavy floods we are witnessing, have rendered much of our country, and all roads impassable except by boat or p ontoons, and the provisions of this army has has to be conveyed in wagons about fifty miles.The first move is being done to cross this flood at the Narrows Narrowest point and crush Hylatzes advance against Vivianis."

"That evenin evening, during supper time, Violet, and her sisters gathered all the girl and boyscout leaders, including even the wounded ones into a big tent, and told them the story of their capture by the enemy and how they got captured.

"During the advance of the army tward Evangeline at Claire on July the 20 20th we had got seperated from our squadron of cavarly because of a cyclone that struck near by, and we had gone only a short distance before one of our companions dashed up to us and pointed out to us a large stretch of woods on our route, where he said a big force of the enemy cavarly had been seen; and entra entreated us to be exceedingly cautious as they were the de nenyans:I told him we were always cautious, and he answered that he knew we were, but foreadws might not have known there was any danger from that quarter:I told him I and my sisters would avoid the woods if we can; and he told us we could by gowing over the low plac eat the right of the Evangeline st claire stream.He then told me he had a message to deliver in that di rection.We rode on.We thought we were going in the direction of the christian line, for we had accom plished our own purpose and had started on the return when we got lost from the army.When we reached a spot b near the creek which then was badly swollen by the flood, our attention was attracted by a riderless horse feeding on the grass that covered the ground.A nearer approach to the animal assured us it was our aide-de-camps horse, and it felt as if our blood froze with fear as we considered the meaning of the awful circumstance.Our aid-de-camp had evidently been shot, and had fallen from his horse, but we hoped that perhaps he was not dead, and we proceeded to search for him.

We our were almost overcome by the suddeness of the shock which had fallen upon us by the discovery, but as we rode foward, the sharp crack of rifles roused us and bullets whistled very close to us, too close for our comfort.We drew our revolvers and returned the fire but discovered half a hundred Glandelinians racing toward us.We wheeled our horses on the instant, and attemp ed to escape in the opposite direction, but this act drew upon us the fire of the whole squadron, and though we were not hit, our seven horses dropped almost simultaneously to the ground shot to the through the head. As our animals fell, Joices leg became entangled under his body, and she was held fast.We could then had gotten ourselves away by leaping a high stone fence, but we would not desert her and tried to reso rescue her when the gray coated devils came up.The rebels then rushed up and seized us disarming us and then released Joice from her uncomfortable position.

They then demanded who we were and we tried to sell our own philosopy to our aid at this trying moe moment and we had to answer that we were "Nationals." Then they demanded of us what we had in our pockets, and we told them we had nothing much as the "pay master"had not been round lately. Being too well known by the main generals of the foe we did not want to give our identification, and they told us that they believed we were better for them to keep as prisoners than we were to kill, and though we said nothing we thought it was a sensible idea on their part.

They again demanded what we had o in our pockets and we told him.He said "Let's see Christian girlscouts." "I asked him if he did take Abbiesinian money as I was forced to pull out mypocket book.He said"You bet we do--take anything from you Christians we can get."We told him he wouldn't get much out of us, and I said"There my pocket book, its rather flat--an elephant stepped on it the other day.There was about twenty dollars in Abbiesinian ten dollar bills, which the Glandelinians thankfully accepted. What else you got."The spokesman of the squad then demanded."What else do you want.?I asked him.Then I told him when we gals meet friends in distress we like to do all we could for them.The rebel said he believed he and his companions were in distress and would take anything we'd give him.He asked if we had any wrist watches,and we had to give them up telling him that was everything we had of value hoping that these sacrifices would satisfy the rapacity of our captors. But they were not satisfied and demanded of us to turn out whatpockets we had.I alone had in the breast pocket of my coat jacket the Bible which my mother had given me and which had been the constant companion in all my campaigns.It contained several pictures of my loved ones at one home including of cause a picture of you too Gertrude, and also one of Angeline Isles.

"You surely don't want to take this from me do you?"I had asked one of the Glandelinian soldiers as I pulled the Bible, wrapped up in oiled silk, from her pocket, andunrolled it before them."You Glandelinians never use a Bible."But he answered to me that he was positively sure I did not need any use of the "trashy book" and he took my most cherished gift. I was almost crying when I asked him if he would not leave that, for I told him my mother gave it to me, and that it contained the photographs of my parents, sisters, and other friends.He only answered that he would not leave "us christian dogs"anything, and demanded of it if it wasn't quite a warm day.I answered that it was rather warm, and he then said to me that he believed the coat I wore was rather warm for me, and though I told him I could endure it very well, he demanded of me to take it off, and told my sisters to do so too.He said that the Glandelinian boyscouts could make use of the coats.I was fr forced to comply and so were my sisters because resistance was in vain, and no one could take a chance on fighting twith these Scoundrels. They then asked us what number of boots did we wear , and Joice re plied that she generally wore two of them.The Glandelinian soldier an swered that he believed we would not need to wear them any longer and demanded of us to remove the boots, saying it could be used for Glandelinian boy or girlscouts.We were disgusted with the conduct of the Glandelinians, and that one request we did refuse no matter what they would do to us.We still retain our boots to this day. At some desperate argument with us and even pointing pistols at us to no avail one of the Glandelinians said to his companions:"Come boys quit now.If we remain too long we'll get capturedourselves if you keep on playing housie with these christian dog girlscouts.Fetch them along, and we'll make them part with the boots bye and bye."This seemed really prudent advice under the circumstances and as we were close to the christian lines, the Glandelinians decided to follow the advise.One of the party took the saddle and bridle from the dead horses, while another caught our Aide-decamps

horse.And think girls this unfortunate event to us took place within fifty or forty rods of the line of the Thirty First Corps of Winkie Abyssinkilian troops, and near the spot where the battle had recently been fought as as you r say.The ground was directly in front of the main christian army and it was an unparrelled piece of impudence for the Glandelinians to come so near on such an expedition and yet cap?? us prisoners too.with with the exception of the stretch of woods, the ground was open, though were were we were captured behind a small forested ridge, which hid these Glandelinian marauders from the view of the christian sentinels.The Glandelinian officer then told us to march, nd demanded if we were ready.We answered that we were not ready but wetold the leader that if he and his fellows have such an insinuating way about them we believed we would have to go, and we glanced in the direction of the christian line.He told us we had guessed right that time, but added that it was o n no use for us to look in that direction, and that if we didn't walk along right as they told us to, they would hang us to the nearest trees..I told the Glandelinians they did not need totrouble themselves, and we protested that we couldn't walk as fast as they could over the rough gour ground and one of themanswered, that if we thought we couldn't walk over the rough ground with them, they'd save us the trouble of walking any further.We had a momentary fear of being shot by the Glandelinians who had us.One of the rascals demanded what o r name was, and as we moved toward the wood beyond which flowed the creek, beg pardon for telling falshhoods but we told them different names than what we had. They then demanded what army.we belonged belonged to and we didn't give a civil answer, and the Glandelinian chif got mad and told us if we didn't speak civil to him he's give us something which we wouldn't like.We understand them to mean a minnie ball, and though the rebel seemed suddenly to have changed his humor and we found it not safe to give indirect answers, we therefore refused to give any answers at all. Day Daisy demande of demanded ofone of them what had became of the owner of the hose, pointing to the animal of our aide-de-camp which was led by one of the enemy but they wouldn't tiv Give us any satisfaction, and we therefore feared the worst.Notwithstandong our own misfortunes, we even then could not help th n thinking of o r our friend and aide-decamp, who though he was only a soldier, and new with us, was to us like a brother.He had endued much suffering with us, and had passed through many perils with us, andthe bond between us had been very strong.The riderless horse seemed to indicate to us that he may be killed.The Glandelin ians had fired upon us before they had captued us, and probably aimed shots at our ade-decamp which had been more unfortun ate.It had been very sad for usto think that our noble companion ans and brave friend had beenshot down by an unmanly foe, and to [illegible] like we had been, but just then and even now we could not and do not cherish any hope that he was still alive.It would have been better fo himto have fallen in the front line of battle, where he had so often distinguise distinguished himself.Too girl s and you good [illegible] it was hard for us to give him up, yet even now as he has never been hard from all the probabilities are that he had been kiled or captured, and if killed, then his body lay still where it had fallen untoniced and unhonored on the very spot where he had been shot. When we realised we were prisoners ourselves,and we had been plundered or robbed even of the most necessary articlesof wearing aparrell, and subjected to needless and underserving insult, and brutall y we decided that if these soldiers ever became our prisoners whenwe got free, again they'd recieve no quarter from us, not especially for what some of us went through when we were sold into slavery.We knew full well that the Glandelin ians usually don't make prisoners of children but murder them, only make prisoners of Angelinian soldiers, but nevertheless,the condition of all the christian soldier prisoners, at allpoints, and in Glandelin ia are well kn own to not only us,but to the whol world in general, and evenif we were to be made only prisoners theprospects befor e us could not be tolerable.But we fought back the desponding spirit which would only have made us mor emiserable and we were determined to submit to our fate with patient resignation and prayed earnestly for aid from above.We always felt in the g keeping of the Go Good Father, His Blessed Son ,and his Blessed Mother,who do all things well,and knew that in His own appointed Tim He would rescue us from the peril and restoe us to our friends, or if it was the Will of His that we should lay down our lives in grief and misery for the Holy Cause we are fighting for we must try to be faithful maytres and be patient to the biter end."

"How did things come out?"asked one of the Boys.

"Wait and you will hear"continued Violet."It's a long story, but we have plenty of time.The Glandelinians conducted us through a portion of the woods to the Evangeline St Claire river, which they forded at the less deep place, and then continued on their way untill they reached a large grove, where it now appeared they hadpicketed their horses.It was also evident to us, unfortunately that the Glandelinians were thecavarly we always dreaded the most, the treacherious Omarians called the Nick Name of Scoodliers, who always hung on the flanks of the army to rob and murder the wounded, who during great war disasters enter ruined town citis and villiages, murder the injured children found amidst the wreckage, plunder the ruins and the dead, capture stragglers worth the trouble,and gather up the spoils of battle,and increase the horrors of disaster by setting ruined towns and homs in flames to let the injured caught in the wreckage perished miserably in the conflagration .

"This had always been apparent to us, and we knew who they were from the words and actions of the wretches,and we felt we had reason to be thankful that they had notmurdered us,as they probably would have if they knew our real identification, for no matter how pretty we are it does not touch their cruel hearts.So far then our lives had been spared spared but this new revelation of the character of our captors suggested a doubt whether death was not preferable to being prisoners in the hands of such Glandelinian soldiery. I remember reading stories of the famous American Cival War of eighteen sixteey one, but not even the fiercest guerillas were as mean as these Glandelinians. They again in savage tones demanded of us to take of these or rake off out boots, and though we felt that we had not a moments lease of life secured to us,and though it might seem sucidal, we feared to comply with such a demand when it ma might later cause the Glandelinians to go to extremes of even Immodesty we promtly refused to comply with such an unreasonable demand of these dangerous Glandelinians.

The Glandelinians debated this question of our stubborness for some time, and with so much acrimony that we ventured and prayed to hope they would resort to knives and bullets in the adjustment of the quarrel and thus affod us an opportunity to escape during the discussion.But we were disappointed, it was finally agreed to allow us to retain the boots, bu be cause Glandelinian and boy scouts would not dare wear boots belonging to "christians", but nevertheless they were greatly enraged and looked at us as though they intended to chock us to de t death right there.A young fellow then tr tried to parley with us but he was dooming himself to a great deal of misery because we would not yeilded and they called us the most tenacious little"devils"they had ever made prisoners.Each of these Glandelinian ,arauders were supplied with a horse, and in order apparently to save the trouble of leading us, rather than for our comfort, we were ordered to ride hoses which were spares, but there were only enough horses for three of us to get on spice, and we were then tied together so that if we did fall off we couldn't escape, and we felt being so tightly embracing ourselves together, as if we were a pack of sardines in a can.The Glandelinian horde too were loaded with plunder, no doubt as I heard them speak together, which they had secured by robbing some disaster stricken town and as we judged from the appearance of the articles.some had their pockets filled with rings taken from fingers,and even fingers w and whole hands were in their pockets.They moved in the direction of Manleys Glandelinian camps, and in a short time they had passed beyond the reach of danger from our own armies.

Finally I heard the man nearest us say to the others, or ask what they intended to do to us, and he pointed to us.He finally ended up with, "They are only a bother to us.We don't want them!You know we do not give quarter to Reeds."

Then some one else suggested, "knock them on the head, run them through, chock them to death, or hang them to trees and leave them."

Still another said "I don't care, and we saw himrub his matted hair br beneath his "College Student hat" as if to stimulate a half developed idea which must have been struggling for existance between or in his brain. Knowing the situation we did care, and it sure did make a considerable difference to us,We had even patiently submitted to the tyranny of our captors in order to save our lives, but upon their debate ment of planning to murder us in cold blood we felt that we had something to say. Therefoe if resorting to desprate measures would afford us the slightest hope of escape, we were ready to accept the issue.There were only twelve of the Glandelinian cavarly men, ad resistance without

our weapons was almost hopeless, and sucidal, yet not entirely so, for we hoped there would come some favorable circumstance to aid us.As we rode along between the Glandelinians, we happened to discover that the holsters of the two horses the three of us rode on spice atill contained pistols. They were two army revolvers, which the Glandelinians had neglected to secure.With these formidable weapons we felt we could make a tolerably good fight,though of course such a course would be sheer madness on our part unless we were reduced to the most desperate extremes, when a frightful death was certain if we did not resort to it. We heard one of them say again that they did not want to be bothered with carrying us around, that Manleys lines was toofar away. One only answered"I was thinking",and another said "was you"? as the thinker did not develope the result of his mediations.He added"come what was you thinking? and then the other asked him if he knew what had happened yesterday, and by their other suggestions they did know, for after all they did know who we were though they did not say so, and one of themsuggested that they could get a good reward from Manley by giving us up to him.It would have been very bad for us too for Manley would hang the whole seven of us without further delay if he had got us then.But I heard one of them say that the Glandelinian general would not give the reward to more soldiers, and that if they turned us over to him, he would spoil their prospects.

One said"I don't care,"and another said"It won't cost us nothing to try, that they didn't want us young Brats, and that he would at least give them something for turning us over to him.Another laughed and said; "Well say anyhow he'll make them young brats give up the boats and their coats if we can't ,"and another said"you bet he won'T.The girls are the vivianites belonging to the Great Christian King pog, Emperor Vivian and the general would be glad to get us.It was finally decided that they would say we were not the Vivian Girls, but christian girls trying to duplicate us, which is often the case with foe child scouts, and they also put articles into our pockets with the purpose to ly on us and tell the general we had robbed them,and that is why they took us prisoners,and that they would deliver us to the general, as a offering if nothing else.We were even not relieved when this decision was reached for Manley and any of his generalsknew us as well as his own and to be handed over to him, was to us like being lost souls being handed over in chains in to Saten..The Glandelinian do not have no more regard for the prisoners than do the fiends have for lost souls.

When the Glandelinians however arived at the spot where general Manleys army had been on the previous day,btheirplans were entirely changed by learning that the vast army had been moving away to condentrate and advance to the support of Federal at Evangeline St Claire, not that this information affected their purposes because o it suggested a field for the better purpose of their irregular work.We then heard them discuss the matter, and we overheard that they believed the christian cavarly would burn and destroy to prevent Federals advance tward Trinoque Town to do this too without discrimination, wherever they went.Their presence would create a panic, houses would be an abandoned, citizens of the enemy killed, and the spoils would beplentiful. When the leader of my captors suggested that the party should follow the army, and gather up the plunder, his companions readly consented .

Then at this time we did not and could not learn what they were reallly going to do with us, but we knew that we had to go with them..Though it was now dark,the Glandelinians immediately started for the new fields of operations, and we were placed between a major number of well armed guards as before. These gray coated worthies were less communicative during the evening than they had been immediately after our capture, and we listened in vain for any hint in regard to the awful disposition which they intended to make os us.They rode till about ten oclock,when the leader suggested that they were "humen Beings" and ought to have something to eat if they had to steal it.They were approaching a small apparently abandoned villiage on the verge of the flood and no doubt we knew it mattered little to them whowere in possession of the town.

"Do you remember the town!" Asked Gertrude.

"No it was too dark.We were ordered to get off the horses, as the party halted in the yard of one of the houses, in a street flooded a foot deep with water. We obeyed though they first had to untie us.In the darkness of the silent evening he h we had contrived to remove the revolvers from their holsters, and place them under our vests, for we were not sure whether we would again be permitted to again get upon the horses.We had also transfered from a leather bag on the pommel of the saddle of the horse I rode, two or three at a time a sufficient number of cartridges.

We therefore were not without a hope that the present halt would afford us an opportunity to attempt an escape. We were ordered to lead our horses to the stable, and we obeyed, yet we were more closely watched than we had anticipated for.While we were thus engaged, we saw the captian and the lieutenant in close conversation, and we were satisfied that they were talk ing about us. As we came out they called us and asked us if we desired to be hanged before or after supper.We an answered that whether we wished it or not was out own matter, and they repeated the question so often that we were tormented.I told them that we would be grateful for their consideration, that we did not want to be shot, hanged, or anything on that sort, even though we did not fear to nevertheless, I told them that we did not do themany harm when they captured us,and they answered it was so but just the same we did them no good, and repeat d ec repeated the question again whether we wished to be hanged before or after supper.When we again answered yes we do not wish to be, the captian asked if we could read.W answered ys, and they asked if we had ever read of the story about some monkey that took the cats paw out of the or took I believe let me see-- yes tok the cats paw to haul the chestnuts out of the fire with.I answered no, but we did n know from guess work what the moril was to th at story, they guessed it, for Glandelinians knew we girls were great on morals, and one told me he was going to tell us the moral of that story.The question was repeated to our disgust.We answered that we didn't want to be hanged, and we were greatly perplexed to know what the fellow was going to do,and wondered exceedingly if he wasn't crazy or a half wit.He said never mind then, we'll talk about the Moral,"He called that word Moril.He said it was not exactly the thing for them to go into the house, and make them get supper for them when they didn't know whether there were christian soldiers soldiers in the town or not.Yet they wanted their supper, and they wanted something more after that.They said they were the monkey, and we were the cats paw---mind you--we the cats paw.I didn't understand their meaning, and they told us we were to go in, decieve the owner by our appearance order the supper, and do the talking for them. When they got supper ready, they would go in and eat it without any of the folks seeing them.They were to pretend they were christians and we were their girlscout officers.I saw the scheme, they didn't wany the folks in the house to see them, and again the question was put to us whether we desired to hang.We would have refused atany cost to comply with any such scheme but we consented to this plan hoping thereby not only tosecure our release from them but to entrap them too.Whatever the e merits of the plan in which we were compelled to take paet in we did not relish the idea of being made the paw of a cat in the hands of such dirty scoundrels as these Scoodliers.It also involved so no sacrifice of principal, and did not require us to give aid and comfort to our beleaboured friends, otherwise we would have takeing the chance in an encounter with the whole squad.We had to tell them we ware ready, espei especially when the rascal h had fully explained his plan.Ty They claimed they were half starved, and were ready, too and yer we demanded if we looked much like our former selves, when we went in without our coats and hats. By his order our coats were reluctantly restored to us with the remark that we wouldn't want them after supper, which led us to believe that we were going to be shot when tha wretches had no further use for us.We told the them too we'd look the part better if we were our swords, and they refused, and we then demanded do they think we could be bring through the scheme without our swords, and that we could decieve the man when all christian soldiers are dressed properly. They gave me the swords reluctantly and they asked us to findout some scheme to send the folks out of the house for a while while they were at supper.We believed we could, and they wanted me and my sisters to play some christian trick.I said perhaps we'll try, and they then promised to give usour own supper before they would hang us.We promished to do the best we could being confirmed in our opinion that the savages meant to kill us, and then one of them asked if we could write.I said yes, and they told us to write down a note that someone wanted to see them down in the next home.We pretended to think it was capital.All the servants outside the househad been captured, and kept in the darkness where they could not recognize any of the Glandelinians.They too had already been questioned and enough was found out of the family to enable one of us to write a note , but none of the soldiers had any paper.I told them I could manage it and as a splendid suggestion seemed to om to me I said that if I took from my bible one of those holy pictures, and tell them the preson represe represented wished to see them they would go.If they don't recognize the picture they would be curious to know who it was.

Ty They doubted my wor, wod for it appeared from the story of the servants that the children of the gentleman in the next house had beem gone away, tha that all were in Calverine, and it was finally agreed that we should say the children had suddenly arived, were quite ill and wished all the family would come down and see them.But I demanded the picture to write the message on, and one was given to me, and the bible too, and by the light of a la lantren, which one of the servants was commanded to bring I wrote in pencil in our own way of writing "Laten so they couldn't make it out"These Villains are Glandelinians they have us prisoners and mean to kill us and rob yer house---get a force and capture them and release us."

"The little she devil is great at writingain't she"I heard one say.I asked him if he would look at it, but he said he did not have the time.But another Glandelinian took, it looked it over and then handed it back to be saying that will do.We are great on tricks ain't we.I answered there was nothing like a well managed trick, and I placed the card in the testiment which had been given me for the purposeITold them they were sharp fellows, and that this t thing would work to a charm..They said they thought it would, but advised us to get going, for they wanted their supper very badly, and that they would show us a trick or two after that which would beat ours.We walked to the side side of the house, which was some distance from the stable so that the arivel of the Glandelinians had not been noticed by the people within .These Glandelinians seemed to have a wholesome dread of the approach of any christian columr that might appear unexpectedly for they often alluded to them in connection with the great number of children they had murdered, and of the dangers they m would met in having us prisoners among them, for Glandelinians capturing us or chasing us you know, recieves no quarter, and they had already discovered that the main christian force was not farin advance of them while detatchment of the dreaded Winkie Abyssinkilians were guarding all approaches to Evangeline st Claire and Trinoque, and that town was not half a mile from the villiage.The Glandelinian leader, mind you said he did not believe he could trust us, for he had accompanied us to the door, but I answered that I nor my sisters did not care whether he did or not, and that it was not my job, but his.He said he'd go in with us, with his face covered up, and told me if I myself didn't talk right up, he would murder me right in the very house.I knew that to refuse to do his bidding was rank sucide, and so I knocked at the door, which seemed to displease my wicked companion, who wished me and my sisters to walk in without any ceremony, but I and my sisters explained that a certain degree of courtsey would not only help the enterprize but defiantly told him that we would not allow ourwe ourselves to get shot by our own friends for no Glandelinian whatever, and the Glandelinian gave in, but with an ill grace.The door was opened by a servant.I asked if the master of the house was in for we did not know the name of the owner.The servant told us we were, and we told him who we were, and that we wished to see him, and the servant bid us to walk in .We were conducted to a elegant library, where the owner of the house were seated.H We were closely followed by the Glandelinian officer, who had tied a silk handhe handkerchief over his face to hide his ugly featues from the inmates of the room.The man w who was the owner of the house rose fromthe chair, and bowed with stately courtsey to us, but not to the Glandelinians. We told the man we were sott sory to disturb himat that time of night, and when he asked whowe were he was astounded when we informed him.At first seeing a rebel officer with me he could not hardly believe it,, and he said to the man that he seemed to wear the uinform of the Glandelinians,but the rascal told him he was sofortunate to obtain the uniform from a Glandelinian officer whom he had captured.The owner of the house then said that he understood, though he believed christian officers usually would rather go in rags than wear the colore of the Glandelinians especially when obtained in that manner. He told the man that the christian officer from whom he got the uniform had no further use for his dothing for he had found that the chivalry did not justify the system which prevailed of even robbing Glandelinian officers of their clothing.He then ask of us what we desired, and I told him we had a small squad of men with with us, that we had had no supper and that we wished to trepass sofar on his hospitality as to obtainone in h his house. He asked how many, we told him,and he said we should be supplied atonce. I told him we were in the greatest haste.

The man answered that the meal would be forthcoming with allpossible haste and he ordered his servant to give the proper diection to the cook and the others. He asked us if we did belong to the squad.The Glandelinian officer demanded of us to tell him we did, and as we really did at present being theirpri pr s prisoners we said yes, and we told him that we had stopped at our headquarters recently, that we too were almost starved, and that we hadjust recieved news from Evangeline St Claire, and that no one out side the lines could provide for us.The man was eve evidently surprised,and immediately the little girl and boy present suspended their play n playing, and looked at us, but clung to their mothers skirts at the present presence of the man in that gray uniform for they feared any one who wore f gray. The Glandelinian officer told us we were smart , for he appeared to enjoy the situation amazingly.We told the man of the house that we were recommended to come here, assuring us you that he never turned a hungry soldier from his door.I told himthey had given me a card requ requesting me to give it to him.I handed the sc man the photograph of myself, on the back of which was written the appalling statement of my situation, and the character of the men with me.

It was a fearful moment to him, and also more fearful for us, for the alarm of this man moght betray us to the bloody Glandelinians who wtood at our side.If he understood the writing he'd have called in his soldiers, and they would have made short work of us, and those of the house too.Though the silk handkerchief over the face of the officer impaired his vision, it did not entirely obstruct it.The man read the words on on the card,he was startled by them, and ganced at me in particular.I con tracted my brow, shook my head slightly in the rascals diection,and assumed a strange deprecatory expression, which the owner of the house seemed to understand. I then sa told him the persons in the next house down the street wished t wished to seevhimas soon aspossible.He replied that he and his family would go at once, and asked us to excuse his a absense.I answered "Certainly sir, now fully assured heunderstood.Hislittle girl asked himwhat was it for she waspuzzled by the remarks which had been made in her presence. He told her his two sons had arived from Calverine, that they will ill an and they we re to go down and see them immediately.The wife and both of the children expressed their surprise, but the man directed them to get ready as speedily as possible, and they left the room for thatpurpose.The man then said he was sory to leave us, but would endeavor to return as soon as we had finishedou supper, and that we should make ourselves at home. He then asked why my men didn't come into the house for his doors were always open to the defenders of the country.I said thank you; and would take them into the dining room at once.He said"d do so"and he left the room. The Glandelinian leader told me I sure was smart, but I answered that I did exactly as he told me to do, and that if there was any credit about the affair it only belonged to him.He said that was so but that I carried it through right smart, and that I shall have som supper before I and my sisse sisters were hanged or he would have said that if not prevented by prudential motives.The man and his family left the house by the front door, and it was probable that they used all possible haste to escape from the presencde of the Glandelinians, wh s whose character they now understood.In the meantime the Glandelinian leader amused himself by opening the various drawers in the owners secretary,and prying into every hole and corner which might be supposed to contain any valuables. It took half an hour before supper was announcee, and the leader went into the dining room.The servants were sent off, and ordered not to show themselves again.The glandelinians then sat down to supper, making one of us stand before the door leading into the hall to notify them of the approach of any person, while the rest of us were made to wait on them.They ate and drank like heatheans, and the noise they made with the soup was worse than thr the moaning of a Saxsphone and so loud was the soup concert that they did not hear the sound of horses hoofs in the yard, just as they were about finishing the soup.

The side side door of the house opened into the hall, ware I stood as sentinel for the hungry Glandelinians, and from which a flight of steps led to the third floor.I carefully noted all the surroundings, for I had learned from Walter Starring that the battle was gained only by good strag strategy which must depenec depend upon good knowledge of the ground. When the pf preciousplan of my ctors was fist developed, I regarded it as the means of thecdeliverance of myself and my sisters, though just then I could not tell precisely in what manner we could accomplish it.We knew that an important bridge crossing the creek near Trinoque on the lone railroad not far from this villiage, was guarded by an immense squadron

of Winkie Abyssinkilian cavalry, and we readily hoped that this force would be brought up by the owner of the house for our deliverance and for the protection of his family, and the capture of the Glandelinians.These wretches were an anomalous class on the flanks ofour own army, and the man understood readily who our captors were. We had no special sympathy for any Glandelinian for what they had done, for we knew what their capture meant if we were found in theirpossession, but we were foolish we had to go and be somewhat merciful even against the wretches who would have hanged us to a tree for nothing.What we had done was for our own benefit.We had recoveredpossession of our coats and uniform when we became the "cats p-? paw" of these dirth dirty Glandelinians, and we were now in a condition to make a movement as soon as the circumstances would justify it.The Glandelinians---which we called "Valdals or landpirates finished their supper, and turned their attention to the second part of the programme they had laid out.Evidently they did not intend to sack the mansion but only to secure such small aorioles of value as they could more easily secure.For thispurpose three of them entered the library, some others crossed the hall into the sitting room, and the others went up stairs.They had not heard the tramp of horses in the yard, but I being near the side door, which was partly open listened to the sound as the notes of our own deliverance.I believed then the tim for actionhad come, and while the Glandelinians were intent upon their plunder I left the door where I had been stationed, and moved round to the rear of the staircase, and giving a signal to my sisters we looked around expecting to find a passage to the cellar, but we found nonw none.The house was surrounded by christian cavarly, and if we went out we would show ourselves, to them, and then even our own superiotory would not save the wretches for the soldiers who were ofour side would know we had been taken prisoner by the foe. A At the only alternative, because of our foolish mercy we went up the stairs to find someplace to hide, and avoiding three Glandelinians who were searching the chambers there we found the garet steps and went up where wecwere not likely to be w followed by any of our wicked Glandelinian companions.We had scarcely reached this secure position before the commotion below if ind indicated to our horror that a big body of Glandelinians from outside had surprised thosecwho had surrounded the house.The noise soon had subsided, and it was evident that our would be rescuers had been captued.Someone then said below"You say Colonel Turner there were seven of the prisoners who wore girls clothing."The answer came there were, and that they bet one of them gave the information and I recognized the voice of my late coma companion.I heard him say,"The little she rat thought I couldn't read what was on the card but I did, and I was on my guard and sent for you hastily."

I heard the other remark "Did you say they looked like the Vivian Girls."Some one else said "yes,"and the officer said,"well we want them, who ever they are, for we have plenty of evidence against these little Christian villians.We will send them off into slavery.The one who made out the writing on the card is the head of them. "One of those below said he didn't understand it, and then came someone else saying he should be very glad for an explanation, and that though they may not havemuch against us, they wished to know who we really were.We had hoped they would not trouble themselves to look for us in the attic, but we heard the tramp of heavy feet on the lower stairs.I heard a Gladelinian say he must do his duty, for if those girls you mention are the Vivian Girls, as you think, they must not be permitted to roam round the country.If they are, they may belong to the force which is now concentrating at Evangeline St Claire, and I heard him say that it was not for him to say what shall be done with us.They must catch me again if they can.I heard him say he saw me standing at the door of the dining room, when he looked in at the window, and that he was positive he h we had not left the house.

Another man said, he regarded us as dangerous, and theofficer then ordered his men to search the house at all points.We hoped that the case still looked very hopeful for us if we could hide in the garret,.It was very dark in the garret, and while the soldiers were searching the chambers we carefully felt about us for someplace of concealment.The roor was an eight sided one in whichw there were windows, but while we were walking about, I myself struck my head against a long iron handle hard enough to make me see stars, and it proved to be attatched to a shutter or scuttle.This I unfastened and managed to raise with the help of Joice

and my eyes were greetrd with a view of the stary sky.The discovery was a welcomeone to us, and we lost not a moment in availing ourselves of the advantage of which it seemd to afford.The lower end of the aperture was within reach of my hands, and with great care and no do difficulty, we raised curselves, and succeeded in gaining the roof----an operation which our own gymnastic practice enabled us to accomplish for it was a feat any untrained person could hardly have ever performed. But we had scarcely reachedthe roof before we heard our persuers in the attic, and the light from a candle shone up through the scuttle.I h heard one of them say he had seen where we went, and I closed the scuttle, and all of us who could sat down upon it, even upon one another as much aposoible to make the weight but the game seemed to up be up with us.We drew our swords, and trust the points into the roof as far as we could causing it them to act as bolts over the shutter hoping by this means to gain a moments time to examine the situation.There appeared to be no means of descending the oof to the ground except by the lightning rods, which we saw above the cimneys .Then if we did reach the ground, the house was surrounded by the enemy, and we would be captured down there..While we were considering these facts the men in the attic were endeavoring to raise the scuttle.They did not at on ce succeed, butour prospects were entirely destroyed, when it was evident a number of the enemy took hold of the shuu shutter, and raised it tumbling us over the roof.I nearly fell off to the ground below.A short ladder was placed on the floor, and a lieutenant mounted to the top of the house, and demand of me to surender.There was no use of resisting, there was no help for it and we had to descend down the ladden ladder into the garer garret where we found half a dozen of zimmermannian cavarly men.The lieutenant led the way down stairs to the library which was the largest room in the house .

We had hoped for the satisfaction of escaping from their hands, and the leader of the men who had first captured us said to us"Well you tried to get away didn't you.I calculated to shoot you after supper, but you will be sold to slavery instead. You have done enough to convince me already that you have been enemies alright end tried to cause us to be captured, knowing what would happen if we were since you were in ourpossession.

The head officer who came with the Zimmermannians demanded of us our names, and we were fored to tell him and were also forced to give our offcial position, and connection.He asked us if we were first captured by these men, and I had to detail the particulars of the event.I told of my aide-decamp being shot at the same time. One of the other rebels admitted he shot him, he was asked if he had killed him, and the soldier said he couldn't tell, he got him over the creek and then had capturedus.He told how they fired on us and shot our horses instead.The Generwl asked if the aide-decampwas dead when they left him, and the soldier, said that he idid not think so .so we had feared the f worst in regard to our friend.To the question of the general we had to give true answers.

What hurt us most we had been made the cats paw of these men, who had wi h wished to procure a supper and to rob the house without exposing themselves to detection.Thier purpose was to get the family out of the house.The Glandelinian officer who had captured us first showed he had outwitted us.He exclaimd that it was his scheme, that it was some of his thinking.He said we were not so goo d on tricks as he was.He said he told me to write on the card, and saw what I had written, and decice decided to let it go at that with with the purpose to capture those who would come to our rescue.Everything was explained against us, the leader who had fist captured us, read the card loudly to all the men.I heard the general say"Is that what the little gutersnip wrote, and he appared to be in a fearful rage. "The other said yes, and the general said he would sell us into slavery for that or hang us one or the other.However there came a question in regard to our true disposition in their hands.The general declared he had no aurthority to kill is as we had not been caught spying, but he would report the case to his sueriors. I was with my sisters left at the house under guard, and was left there one week, and then we were seperate and taken away into the various points of the extended Glandelinian armies , and each seprated far from each other.I knew not, and do not nk know the experiances of the others of my dear sisters, except Jennie's I didn't want them to tell."

"What happened to you asked Pen od Penrod.

"Well it so happened with me"she continued that the general officer with whom rested the desci decision in the case of my being a slave prisoner was a personal and plo political opponent of a planter, and therefue I was taken away from him early and put to work int within the lin es.The planter wanted me for his slave and made an appeal to higher aurthority, but it was unavailing, and thank heaven I was hurrid away from that miserable place where slaves died by thousands of sheer overwork and the basest inhumanity you could conceive.I did not get it good in the lin s either but fared better nevertheless, and was kept away from the real slaves. I could have easily escaped by giving up my parcole but I wouldn't do that.My experience within the lines was that of scor s scores of thousands of other little sl slaves.It would requitece volume for me to tell it all, and the sad story could be so often told that it needs a repetition here what I saw of the child slaves.In deed we know that the whole civilized world condemns the barbarous treatment of slaves by the Glandelinians.and sides withour country in its effort to bring Glandelinia to subjection, and free all the children and restore them to their rightful guardians and parents if they still live.

Day after day, week after week dragged away and we suffered. How far away I was from my sisters I do not know.I had been a prisoner for nearly two weeks, and my health had been then much impaired by my suffer ings, by the scanty and mean food given to slaves, but quite as much by being compelled towitness the misery and death which prevailed in the horrid child slave slaughter pen in which I was confined.Once I had made an attempt to escape with a number of the slaves, but we had been hunted down and repca repac recaptured.The slaves were put to death for running away with me, and my death penalty was to have come a week later.I had made up my mind however that I was g wasn't going to stay here.It was sure death to one of my temperament to live such a dogs life as that to wh ich I and my sisters were doomed.It was far better to be shot down by the sen tinels or even to be torn to pieces by the fange of the merciless blood hounds, used by the Glandelinians in their persuit than tidio by inches within the camp of the child slaves.Why the christian prisoners we found fared off far better than we did.Every day a number of the child slaves were driven after wood, and made to work hard for three hours. Those who were fored tl to go outside the camp to work were compelled to sign down a written statement that thei they wouldn't run away, and their names were handed to the officer ofthe day, who was authorized to permit them to pass. When I found an opportunity to join one of these parties, I was compelled to sign my name as others did, and even my suferings had not so far demoralized him that I could not violate the solemn pledge even to so vilea troop as these murdering Glandelinians.I went out with the others but immediately returned with the load of wood we were made to cary.I requested then to be released from this "Child slave" parole as it is called,and I was.I then was free from my obligation, and destroyed the paper for if I should happen to be recaptured in my attempt toescape and was caught with that paper in mypossession I would suffer the horrid penalty of its violation.Others too always were forced to bring in wood and timber, aid soldiers digging trenches or making fortifications.I then taking the chance walked out with the rest.When we came to the guard they were carefully examined again, to see that none but "paroled child slaves" passed out. h They gave their names, and the sentinel therefore refered to the list of those paroled for the outside workfor the day, and if it was all right they were allowed to pass,. He demanded of me my name,I gave it, and he finding my name on the list, even though I had lost my parole let me pass.I was now outside the campppp, and al so discharged from my parole, but I saw at fist my difficuoties had just began, for it apparently wasimpossible to escape for a strongly armed guard of one hundred and eighty men were stretched around the tract of woods in which us child slaves were at work, not only towatch us but to prevent christiansoldiers from escapt escapig escaping. I walked away from the stockade animated by a hope,thou h though of could it was but a dim dim one, of breathing once more the air of freedom.Intent upon the object before me I passed a group of a strangely familiar man on horseback, accompanied by eight shrewd dangerously suspiciously looking girlscouts. "There"she is"exclaimd one of them, and the strange column rl rode tward me.I turned, and in the tall mounted man on horseback who addressed me himself I recognized my friend and guardian Jack Evans.He was dressed in a Glandelinian uniform of high rank, and who w ever the girls were at fist I did not know, but they seemed strangely familiar.They looked tocalmost like a wreci, or like child slaves or child scouts who had seen lots of hardsips hardships

and there was little to remind me of the girlish and noble forms of any of my own sisters as I had known them before.Yet their number to me were strangely suspicious.There were five.I wondered had he been looking for me and my sisters, and that being caught in the act he had been taken prisoner by these five.But he said something to them, they halted,and he dismounted and came tward me. I cried"Jack Evans, and would have rushed into his arms, and wept with the joy I could not conceal, but he refused to accept me whispering "Not here violet" It's dangerous,They'll take us all.Then he asked me how came I to be brought so far away here,and I told him the proceedings, and told him how long I was here.He told me that he had been from one camp to another using money he secured from an enemy wagon train to buy child slaves with, and then he said that those with him were my sisters in disguise. He told me he came to take me too, and then he's go where he had concealed lots of slaves and make for the nearest christian lines, and then dropping his voice to a whisper g he aded"I got a disguise that will fit you perfectly.He told me Jenn ie was quite sick from her experience.I asked if she was much better, and he told me no, but she'll pull through.He then told me to wait half an hour in the woods, and he and they moved on.He soon came back with them and a gray coated escort of soldiers.They were not Glandelinians but his powerful body of retainers in disguise.To avoid all suspicion he had actually served in the ranks of the enemy, had gone from one point to another on various duties till he found us, and had secured Jenie by beating down her master and setting fire to all hisproperty.He nowshed ridden with his escort boldly through the guards, who believing him to be a Glandelinian officer permitted him to pass with his escorts.During his stay as he told me h he had been employed in many various dutues connected with the army, and how he really found my sisters and me was that he was sent timeand again on inspection tours of all child slaves in various parts of the army, and had frequent occassions to pass any point where my sisters were, so that no suspicion was attatched to him after he had even fooled the enemy sowisely.When he came to me he was still in service and had obtained valuable information besides.Hevtold me of someplan, and the plan was, I must pretend to hit him with a rock. I threw one at him, but it missed by bounding against a tree in my way, and took a Glandelinian sentry right in the eye blinding himfor life too. The Glandelinian soldiers would have rushed me but Evans said sternly"You keep out of this boys.That rockwas aimed at me and I'll be the one to punish her.Then to me more sternly(with a secret wink of one a eye) You come with me slavy.We officers will show you what we do when you throw rocks at men in uniforms..We then or I rather then was taken by him and he rode to the woods.At a point near the centre of the space surrounded by the sentinels, we stopped at a big pine tree, whose dense foliage promised to afford any one shelter who climbed into it.I was advised to change my clothes up in the tree, and at a favorable moment I sprang up into the tree.Of course I was seen climbing the tree by other soldiers but they thought I was sent up to do something for the general.I came down unnoticed.Of course too I was seen and closely observed by many of the working child slaves, and I was obliged to run the risk of being exposed by any one of them who might not have sense enough to know what it was to do so such a vile act.But so far no child slave has ever done so anywhere, never had even betrayed an escaping comrade under any circumstances for they were too manly and noble to be guilty of such abase act.We had however escaped the observation of the soldiers who were too indolent or too far off, to notice what took place within the line. And the only duty too they were called upon to perform, as they seemd to regard it was to prevent any prisoners or child slaves from passing the or b passing beyond the ground or bouds given to them.The three hours in which the slaves were allowed to work outside the lines soon expired and the slaves wi laden with their sticks of timber and bundles of wood were driven back to the camp to endure other weeks of and probably many months of vile suffering or to die there as many had done before. Evans and my sisters and the escort with him kept perfectly still untill the guard had passed the trees, and disappeared from their view. Evans told us we would be missed before very lon g , and I replied then that it was not best for us to stop here long, for I was then lying on the ground at the foot of the tree.He secured a sort of pass for me by some trick then o I got on a horse, and having satisfied ourselves that we were not observed we slowly rode away untill the slope of som hill concealed us from the view of the camp, when we ventured to ride forward more faster, and pressed forward for lifeand liberty.We had to fist

ride in a southerly direction toavi avoid the dangers of a northeasterly blown forest fires untill we came to a creek, over which we managed to urge our half wa water timid horses in the hope that the water would interrupt the scent of the blood hounds, which we knew would be put on out t our tracks as soon as their absense as our absence was discovered for we were now going off toowh with all the slaves he had liberated.It was for that time a vain hope.We were in a kind of something that looked to be a swampy jungle or what had once been one, but was all dried up, and it was not more than half a mile from the creek, and then we heard the fearful cry of dogs.We felt we were lost, for the number of children with us seemed to be a hinderance, and we were apalled at the awful sounds, but Evans demanded of us not to give up.I answered we won't ifhe don't for we were always inspired with always fresher courage by the firmness and self possession of the general. Unfortunately were were unarmed but we were adi advised to secure clubs, and we were fortunate r enough to fins a number of good stout sticks with which we hopd to make a good fight..

Joice asked if we should climb a tree, but Evans said we were lost if we did as we could not hife the wagon loads of children we had conveyed with us, by means of loyal drivers.But however took from hispocket a strong r cord, a roll of it which he had secured fromsome place for a good purpose.

He sd I unrolled it, and cut it into two pieces, and n one of the rops he made a slip noose, and directed me and my sisters to do the same with the other and longer piece of rope.The howling dogs girls, were som distance from the spot, and the Glandelinians in persuit seemed to be unable to follow them on their horses which explained Evans policy in choosing this dried up swamp for our flight..Selecting a narrow pass between two clumps of bushes, which had been beaten into a path he stretched the slip noose over it just as boys in the country set snares for foxes and rabbits.I did the same thing in another locality.Evans with his old time great strength again bent down a huge sapling so that the top of it came over the snare,and attatched the end of the cord to it.The little the Big sapling was held down by weaving yh the branches into the bushes just strong enough to hold it down but so that any force beyond its own elasticity would disengage it.The contrivance formed what is sometims called a twitch up snare..I know all about them,and set my own in the same manner but Evans had to help me with the tree.By this time the fierce dogs upon them, and each of us stepped behind the trap we had set.The hounds made directly tward us, two by one path, and one by the other.

Evans said"Come on doggie, and he coolly waited the issue of the sher enterprize.He ordered me to stand by with my club, and my sisters too.I said I was all ready and I nerved my arm to the conflict if one was to be necessary.. The bloodhouds were rushing on tward us with their fiendish yelp the one approaching Evans being a dozen feet in advance of the others.He was dashing into the narrow path and th rustee his head through the nooose, drawing it tight around his neck, and detatch ing the trees and the elasticity of the sapling gave hima tremendous switch and lifted him high it into the air.The spring was strong enough to hold his whole weight, and therefore the hound hung by the neck and was strangling..My snare was not quite so successful, but the spring chockedthe dog, and held him fast.The third hound dodging the obstruction in his path rushed tward me from anth another direction, but Evans was at my side by this time, and killed the dog with a few heavy blows.Of the other two one was chocked to death, and the other was quickly despatched w with the clubsWe hated to do it, but it meant our escape.

Evans then told me that the next move he would have to make was to rescue Jennie.Yet it was not easily traveling in the dreadful swamp but it had this advantage, that we could not be persued by Glandelinin Glandelinian cavarly.We had silenced the howl of the dogs, and our persuers then could not have an any idea of the direction we had taken.Indeed girls, and you boys too, it seemed strange the killing of these blood houds bloodhounds, but it gave us all the advantage, n and we doubled on the enemy persuers by returning to the creek which we had crossed before.After following the stream for about five miles as there were no signs of a persuit in that direction we halted to wait for the protecting shades of th the night, when we hoped to find some of the other slaves whom recaptured prisoners Had uniformly presented as kind and devoted to the last degree . However we knew it would be some time before the journey could be saftly resumed, and our reunited friends had much to say of the past and future.But you see though you thought so we really have not Jennie our sister with us yet.We do not know where she is.We know the name of the one who has her, but we do not know his location.But to go on with the story.Each of us wishes to know

the history of each others experience since we had been so long parted. I accounted for myself first, and then Evans then showed the results of an ugly wound in the head which he said wasone given him by Glandelinians. It had knocked him from his horse but he had soon recovered his senses, and the Glandelinians who had captured him had conducted him over the river where he pretended to faint away. Believing him dead, his captors had left him, and he was thenpicked up by a squad of Regular Abbieannian cavarly, sent first to the Base Hospital, then came out again to look for us. He has not yet fully recovered from his wound, but he is alright nevertheless. Still our own health has been much impaired by hard work, cruel treatments and poor food. We believed we had gone into the Glandelinian camps to die but some how or other our vigorous constitution enabled us to survived that awful hell. Before his arival to my rescue I had been too feeble and sick to attempt to make a successful escape, as hundreds of other prisoners had done but since we have arived here we are now in better condition than we had been before our capture. Now since we came back we had obtained better food which is improving our health. As soon as we find Jennie, for we will not rest tillwe do, we are going to take a long furlough if we can. The sight of Evans coming to me gave me new life and hope and though he says we are a shadow of our former selves we still seem to be able to undergo all perils ad and privations on the road to liberty.

After we had killed the dogs, we believed we had avoided our persuers, and I asked Evans what he would do next. He only answered that we must keep clear of the Glandelinians if we can, and if we can't well have to bluff them off. I asked but where shall we go, and he said find our way fist to Concentinian Aronburgs army. He said the best route was to the flood, perhaps the nearest was not the best best. We knew a great many christian soldiers have escaped from a Glandelinian camp, butone half of them had been caught again. I said our chances then were not first rate with so many child slaves on our hands, and he answered they were very g h very good, if we managed well. He said he'd set a forest fire if necessary to enable our escape. He also said that so far as he knew all who have had the escape fever attempted to reach the flood by the Trinoque River, but he fancied that river was pretty closely watched now, and that it wasvnot best to go that way, that about thirty miles from us to the straight northwestward to the Augta Road across the Santa Sebastian Creek. We were in favor of taking that route because we didn't believe any of the escaping prisoners had gone that way, and also it was a good spot to fire a forest if the wind was against us against the enemy and from us. The question was settled, and as soon as it was dark, we feeling like fugitives from the In fernal Regions started on our journey to the flood.

Before night we had decided upon the direction of the Big Girl Knool or Yellow Brick Road, and succeeded in reaching it. We were all in rags by this time our uniforms having been torn by our travels through the thick woods and down bad roads, and we had much trouble with the wagons loaded with slaves, and the drivers and our escorts had to push to make the wheels go through the deep ground. We were wet with sweat and it was terribly hot, and the air chocked us with smoke. We had eaten nothing either since we escaped, and the greatest obstacle with which we then had to con tend with was our own feebleness. The child slaves too were hungry and crying out for something to eat, others wanted to sleep and many were ill with the heat. We reached the road but though the night was not half gone, we were becoming completely exhausted, our horses were jaded and I felt faint, and dizy. We felt too warm to sit down and rest, and the exercise of half walking and half the time riding, and keep watcho on the wagons too seemed to impart too much warmpth to our weak frame, frames and we felt ill. We were not in condition to encounter the hardships in our path, and not eat anything, with all the heat and smoky atmosphere ....

To our own horror and sorrow our friend Evans with his soul of iron and his greath great strength gave out first, and actually sank down by by the side of the road. Wecould not keep from weeping when and they realized the condition of our brave and noble guardian..

We were not much stronger ourselves, and the enterprize prosished for us to be an utter failure. It was still however then the month of July, the air was hot and dry, we suffered fru frightfully from thirst, and the ground itself was hot and yet something must be done for Evans or he would perish before morning. We too were weak in body, but I was still strong in spirit, and so were my four sisters. Too the condition of out friend and guardian appealed to us with an eloquence which we could not resist, and his illness also putting us into greater peril, as we could not go on alone without him in this dangerous wilderness moved us to greater energy.

I and my fur sisters took from the forest a number of straight bough lying on the ground and made a kind of platform of them in anopen clearing, and placing the rails of a fence across covered it with leaves twigs and high grass untill we had made a tolerably dry and comfortable bed. We thenconducted Evans to it, and laid him on it. V"Violet"he then said to me feebly I asked himwhat he wanted me to do for him now, and he answered nothing more, and explained that he was used up. I told him he would be better soon, and he answered "never my dear girl, and I warned him never to give up, and he said he wouldn't giveup while there was a fibre left of him to lean on , but that now he was almost gone. He asked me and my sisters to take care of ourselves now, stating that he had aided us as far as it was possible. He said that we could do him no good, and advised us to follow this road till we came to the river, and then to find a boat, and float down till we were hailed by the sentinels of general Aronburgs army. I told him we would never leave him, for we were horrified by the suggestion. How could we leave him there, run off with the slaves to their own and our own personal safty, after all he had done for us. He said we couldn't do a thing for him, and that he was positive sure he would die in q a very few hours. He said he didn't think he was so near gone when we had left the Glandelinian camps or he wouldn't have burdened us now with the care of him. I told him that we should have perished in the enemys lines if it had not been for him. We were determined not to desert him, told him so, and said that probably God would not let us live if we should do such a mean thing. He then said as we love him, save ourselves, and that it would would be the greatest favor we ever done for him to insure our own safty, and he spoke in quivering tones. I would not leave him, not only that but I and my sisters were desperately determined to save him. We knew we could, and would. He was like a good and loving brother to us. We told him he should not die, we couldn't bear to think of it after all he done for us. We told himto keep a god heart for a little while, and that he would be saved. He said he would keep up as well as he could , but he continued thatwhen such a powerfully strong man like he sinks, he generally goes at once. He begged of us to leave him, and to save ourselves saying it was the last favor he had to ask of us. I told him we would not if he begged it on his bended knee. As my sisters remained to guard him, and try to nurse him back to immediate health for he only was overcome by the terrific heat I left n and telling my sisters where I was goinggoing and not to be worried, I hastened back to the road carefully noticing the path, so that I could easily find the spot again. When I reached it I was almost overcome by my own emotions, and by my own exhau stion and illness. I wanted strength, at that trying moment I felt as if I was going to fall into a faint, and therefore I needed strength to save ourselves and Evans. I knelt down upon the hot ground and prayed for gr strength with an earnestness which had never v before burned in my soul. I have always trusted in god and in all my trying and difficult experiences I always ask for guidance. I rose from my knees after making the sign of the Cross. I knew that God had heard me---was with me, I could feel it so. Strength came if not to my muscles in the increased earnestness of my purpose. I rode along a road till I came to a large house which ome fields I had seen had assured me could not be far distant. It was a farm house, and beyond it was a villiage of slave huts. The slaves were apprehensive at my uniform and were not friendly but I could hardly expect to find them diferent when they mistook me for a Glandelinian girl girlscout. I was then desperate. It seemed to me that the Glandelinians had no rights which we were supposed to respect. Throwing off myhboots I approached the house, and seeing the slaves didn't take to me pretend ed I was a Glandelinian and ordered them to the huts, and they had to obey as they feared enemy boyscouts. I then went to one of the windows and to my surprise found it was partly open. with out making noise, and with all the greatest care I raised the sash, and climbed in. I found there was

just light enough in this room in which I entered toenable me to find my way to the mantle on which were a lamp and some matches.I lighted a lamp and looked all about me.There was a bed in the room on which lay an object which would surely have frozen my blood had I been a timid person.It was a hedious corpse, the eyes closed.I only glanced at it, I was somewhat startled, but not frightened, for death in its most horrid form e was so familiar to her that she did not shrink from the sight.I had a mission to perform at all costs, and I proceeded to search the room for what I wanted. I found a large closet, opened it, and found two fullsuits of mens l clothing, one of them a brand new Glandelinian uniform of some high general, and I believed then that the dead man had been an officer in the Glandelinian army.On a table with a number of s vials I found a bottle of brandy of which I drank a few swallows myself.Dropping the clothing out of the window, where I could secure it at my leasure, I could I continued the search, and found a couple of revolvers in a drawer, with cartridge bullets which I secured.I then left the room, and in the hall found bacon and all other food which was plentuful.Filling a big basket with the food I hastened to make my mistakesescape.

With the utmost c r care I departed from the house laden with the precious articles I had obtained.It was one oclock at night as I had seen by a clock in the house, andallwas still.When I was a safe distance from the farm ho se house, I took off the rags I wore, and put on the uniform of a Glandelinian boyscout, leaving the brand new uniform of the general I had secured for Evans.Thus relieved of a portion of my burden I hastened to the couh of my perishing rescuer.I asked him how he felt and he asked"Is that you Violet?I hoped you and your sisters had gone."I told him no, that I had come with life and hope, and I placed the bottle of brandy to the sick manw lips.He drankall that I dared to give him.I knew it would bring him to and it did.He said God bless you Violet, I was thinking that brandy would save my life."I asked him if he could get up for a moment or two, and he said he could, that he felt like a new man,but he was also somewhat exhilarated by the strong liquor he had taken.I asked him to let meput the uniform on him telling him I had a new one, and I assisted him to put them on .They were cooler and dry, and he manifested achildish delight as I helped him put them on.They were rather small but they wer were comfortable. Then I asked him if he could eat bacon and bread."Could I eat them!"He said "I sure could if I had them!"And I answere that he has them, and brought the basket to his couch.He and my sisters ate heartily, and when we had finished he said that he could walk ten miles that night.We however knew that he could not---that he was also under the influence of the brandy, and over estimated his strength.

I and my sisters were determined to keep him quiet for a few days if possible assured that otherwise the enterprize must fail and no means found to bring to safty poor Jennie.when I had told the story of my visit to the house I asked him if he felt beter and he said yes.I asked him to go to sleep, and when he did I and my sisters went on an exploring expedition.In a forest of evergreens half a mile distant, I found an old shanty which had been used for man once engaged in drawingpitch from these pine trees.To this we managed to have out patient transferred, and kept him there a week The child slaves on this plantation discovered us but they were faithful friends, and supplied us, and all our rescued slaves with food and bed clothes which they secretly brought from a distant camp so that we were all quite comfortable.From these devoted little friends, we heard that the dead man I had seen in the house had been the son of some glandelinian general who had been brought home wounded mortally.Evans gained strength each day since he was well clothed and well fed.So after a weeks rest, we started again, taking the other good slaves withus guided by one who showed us the way to the river, and directed us tward the christian army under Aronburg.N ight after night for two days we continued on our way, guided and entertained by the slaves till we came near to the lines.

Now once more we are beneath the lines, beneath our old flag once morewe are in the hands of friends.When we leave here, we are going to now helpvEvans try ad locate Jennie. He knows now where the scoundrel has her.We are to accompany him."

"But do you think you can find and get Jennie?"asked Penrod.

"I'm positive we'll have her in general Evians lines to morrow afternoon if we leave here."

They were silent for a few minutes, and then Penrod said;"I don't wish to act bold, or critize any one here, nor yor Nation either Violet, but thin gs are almost not natural to me here. I have asked many questions on that subject and do not know what to say to the answers.I've been even before this war in many towns in Calverin ia, Abbiennia, and even lived in Abbiennn.Never did I see any boy or girl do anything wrong whatever, they never were scolded, always obeyed, were crazy to go to K Mass on Sundays and Holy days, and in fact all the people are the same. The way children look in their features too they act.The prettier they are the gooder they are.Yet I never saw a homely child.Even you, and your sisters, and all I know here on the raft, in the camps, among even rescued child slaves are unatturally good."

"Wh Why"asked violet with a smile"Is there anything wrong with that?"

"Yes in one way. If a every one is so good, why do we have to suffer. Where do we deserve it.L ook at what you go through."

"That is our own doing."said violet."For our country we do our duties and seek the dangers.No body to blame but ourselves.We can escape all this if we want to."

"But the disasters"contin ued Penrod.T "The horrible suffering among the refugees, the dreadful plagues raging, the floods, the devastating fires, the massacres, the apparent sucesses of the enemy. Why does it happen when I'm sure Abbiennia from the goodness of her people do not deserve it!"

"You don't understand."said Joice herself. "Don 't you kn ow that Our Blessed Lord, was absolutely guiltless, and what His enemies done to him."?

"Yes I rame her that."

"Well we are his people, his followers.We go through it for His sake. But don't worry about that Penrod dear.I have had visons from Heaven and so have my sisters that our country will come out with colors flying and Glandelinia will humbly beg on her knees for mercy."

"I know that"said Penrod."But Ican't bear it. To see all these good people, these poor little good innocent l ittle child saints maytred so frightfully just for the pleasure of the enemy.It makes me have a Satenic hatred for the enemy.I shot down that man who duplicated Gertrude from sheer hatred.Did I do wrong.He decieved me and made me have a quarrel with Gertrude and threaten to shoot her as a traitor."?

"You didabsolutely right."I'd like to catch any one duplicate me" said violet decidedly."I'd duplicate him with my pistol."

Penrod spoke a lot that evening about his experiences in all portions of Abbiennia as far as he had travled, and he sure did believe itwas very unatual tohim. He had wherever he went played with many children, boys and girls, in all kinds of games, never had any one quarreled with him or among themselves, they were unaturally fair in all the games, gave in to one another to avoid sq quarels, never did the children disobey their parents, or when called to do something had to be called twice.

Everyone were faithful in their duties duties, and so on, and he had never heard of any crimes, nor had any one ever been known to do any offenses, except it be some fo l foolish foriegner.In the ,ain cities policemen were never seen, never needed, jails were not known except in far off Islands, and so he could not make itout whether he had went into som sort of a heaven without dying, or a righteous ,ib Limbo.

Many time he had broached this subject to his girl scouts and other friends, and they always thought that it could not be unatural. That was one of the causes why he never wished to leave such a country. when he had been brought over he had been a little boy of three years, and first with his adopted father general Gr Greatheart, or rather ste step-father in Abbiann or Abbiennn, which in the English language that name would meant "Abbiennia's Holy city, or Jers Jerusalem for it had had the best Catholic Cathederals and so forth in the world.It had taken him a long tim to get used to such surroundings, for even despite his age then he remembered how peo le people were in other parts of the world.If children didn't disobey, or fight,there it seemed unatural.

He remembered too how he had been treated by children in Abbiennn because he had been known in a friendly way as "Little Tronchy. If Penrod wasn't a King, if somethow felt they took him for one for their treatment of the him.

N ow all his friends whom he had known, except that little black haired girl who escaped with him, were gone, only Heaven knows where.He had been so dumbfounded that he could not understand, for what had happened and has happened and stillcontinued to happen, and therefore he finally could not resist the temptation to ask Violet and her sisters something on the subject. Violet finally continued;

"Of course we are all good, more good than you have seen Penrod, we are all as bits I suppose, but than you know, the good suffers because of the wicked.But hoy did you ever since you joined an army observed one of our armies after a battles and run from the enemy as if they wanted to get away awfully bad.!"

Penrod laugh laughed at this question.

"Sure I did."he ejaculated still laughing."but they ran the wrong direction, and the enemy they had to run too."

There was a general laughter at his practical joke which in more facts than one were true.If any christian army had retreated very fast after a battle before the enemy Penrod could not remember seeing one do so. Penrod then said;

"I'm sure I can aid you in finding your sister Jennie..I know where Augustinia St Claire plantation is near the enemy lines.If I had known your sister was there I'd have taken the chance to get her myself."

"At what p`a place is she located!"asked Joice.

"It is to the north of Evangeline St Claire, near the Crossroads leading from Trinoque.It is easy to find."

"How could you find that out, Penrod!"asked Catherine.

"How.I was there one day and knew the location well.Say that man has the face of a bulldog and worse."

"Ische dangerous Penrod!"

"Worst rate."answered Penrod."I'm always afraid to think of what the slaves go through under him.Your mention that your sister in is there there chila me. Are you sure she is!"

"Evans says so, and he's gone to investigate.I believe Penrod you are a better scout than even I took you to be.It was a sensible idea on your part to scout round that neighborhood."

"It sure was.I got a picture of that plantation ine one of my pockets."

"Let's see it."

"I suppose you little saints would remember thisplace would you!"Asked Penod as hepulled the card out of his pocket and handed it to them.

"You bet we would andwill.We'll take any chances we can get to go there and find her.Where did you get the pistures!"

"I took it with a camera.I thought those Glandelinians won't be able to get much out on me.There's my pocket book, it's rather flat a wagon wheel rolled over it the other day.It is not mine rather, but one belonging to that St Claire person. But fo t fortunately for him it is empty and was.There was about ten dollars in legal tender currency in one of the others I also got picked up and also slave traders bills in the otherpocket book."

"What else did you discover!" demanded Hettie.

"What else did you expect.He has over thire thirteen hundred slaves ."

"Have you got the time!"asked Daisy.

Penrod pulled out his watch.

"Oh gosh it has stopped I forgot to wind it up in my excitement to day.That's the only thing I have of value"he added,"And I must for e forget I have it with me."

"Never mind that then."said violet."But I wish Evans would come.He said he'd be back before six."

Penrod took from the breast pocket of his coat a Dairy which general Greatheart had given him and which had been his constant compenion in all his campaigns.It contained several other photographs of St Claires planatation including of course a map of the Evangeline St Claire region.

"You don't need this!"said he as he pulled the dairy fromhis pocket and unt unrolled it before them."It may give some clues as to how to easily find the place.I found it there too."

"We sure could make good use of this book"replied Catherine as she took the cherished gift."I'llvreturn the Dairy later that if w you won't mind leaving me it. Who gave it to you!"

"General great heart gave it to me and it contains the photographs of different parts of the plantation."

"Do you think you might fall in the enterprize"Asked Jack Saunders.

"Not if I know it, Jack"replied Daisy.

"This is an awfully warm day isn't it Penrod!"

"Rather warm.It's from those forest fires no doubt.Ain't those waists you Princesses wear too hot for you!"

"They might be but I think we can endure them very well."

"I am afraid it might make you sick if you wear them any longer.Why don't you girls take them off. You look as if dressed for a cold day.And you are still in gray."

Violet, and her sisters complied for they did sure feel uncom uncomfortable in them.

"What number of hoes doyou wear, Daisy"Continued Penrod glancing at her feet.

To be a little joking she said"Well I generally wear two of them."

"You do.Well I believe you wouldn't want to wear them old things any longer.I have a brand new pair I took from "Gertrude Angeline"Whom I shot in the enemy camp".I tried them on Gertrude the second here, and she could not wear them.They were too tight.Don't you think those hoes would fit you, or any of your sisters."

"I'm afraid they would be toosmall for her"said Angelinia Aronburg."But Catherine why not you try them on.I believe they'll just fit you."

"Though I'd like to I think they'be be too big for me.But all of us can try them she suggested."

"But did you have much trouble in discovering yur mistake!"asked Violet.

"No trouble at all. Gertrude easily convinced me the second time."

"What was the one name you shot!"demanded Catherine abruptly.

"I cannot recall.But he was a man the same size as you and Gertrude."

"A man clever enough to make himself look like Gertrude!"

"Certainly, a"and he told the whole experience in full.

Then turning to one of the boys who stood on guard he said;

"Have those boots brought here!"

"Boots.What boots!The ones you captured in the foe lines!"

"Yes."

The boots were brought in less than a minute.

"Now Catherine off with those old boots and try these on."

She promptly complied with his demand.

"Who's go ing to have the boots if they don't fit any of us!" asked Violet.

"Any girlscout they fit."replied Penrod as Catherine proceeded at once to try them on."If they don't fit no one I'll have to scal them. Catherine could not get the boots on.However Daisy succeeded in getting the them on. They were a l bt little tighter of course but fitted very well, and she looked good in the shining boots.

The Then a sudden thought came to Joice;

"violet what are we going to do with this boyscout scardy cat Jack saunders who deserted Joan.We won't have much time with him over in general vivians lines.,and we don't want him with us.He'll probably spear the whole business if we take the culprit and cause us all to be captured again."

"Knock him on the head and leave him here."sugges a suggested one of the boyscouts.

"I don't care what the penalty would be."added another."A boy deserting such a girl as little Joan."

"How did it happens at"she asked of Penrod.

"I do not know."He answered."I do not remember being on the raft o at the time.But every one is down on him and would have hanged him if they dared."

"I don't care if they did!" said Jack Sanders."Poor Joan was badly hurt in the bargain, and nearly died afterwards.It was easy to save her. We had those Glandelinians on their knees.He spoiled our prosep pros prospects and out expedition.It would have cost nothing to rescue her when she fell.I saved her and captured him too.We don't want the young cug here and he'll do something dangerous yet for our cause."

"Well how old is he!"asked Catherine.

"About fifteen or sixteen.Some say he's eighteen."

"You bet he's eighteen"said Jack."We have his records.The boy is a foriegner, and again an English kid."

For a few minutes violet and her sisters were silent on the subject .

They felt greatly disturbed over the fact for it was a most unheard thing of all.They had felt bad since they first heard of it, they cared much about it, they felt as if they had been slapped.They had patiently submitted to all they went through without a murmur, all since they went into the army, but upon the question of a boy deserting a girlscout in danger, she felt and so did her sisters that it was too much for them to bear.Even they if they resorted to desperate measures could not save the desertar from the penalty that might come upon him for his deserting,and they were ready to accept the issue.They too felt it was sometime because of boys like these, cowardly foriners that they had suffered, that their sister Jeanie was still a prisoner, that Angeline still writhed in the pain of her almost mortall wound, and evidently where there had been seven of them, there might now only be five.They knew too because of his desertion there was now not a single favorable circumstance to aid him and hoped there would would not be..They debated this question for some time.

They then discussed the matter with Jack, and then sent for Jean, Jacks friend. hile waiting for her, Jack told the whole story, of the incident, of her fall, and his desertion, and how he rescued her, and captured the cu- culprit with the aid of two others and forcibly brought him before little fiery headed Mildred.He told how the fist news of his desertig desertins Jean had created a panic among the others, ed and what a time had, he had had from preventing him from being mobbed.

OTHER INCIDENTS WORTH MENTIONING.

General Aronburgs army in action at Elenor Creek.

G

In the meantime the boy was called for, and he was placed between two armed boys as before.It took ten minutes to bring the prisoner to the general Headquarters, where all these girlscout officers were with the five princesses.

"Into the house with you rorimer."said one boy Turkin b by name as the party halted in the yard of the house."The Princes ses will like to interview you."

The boy reluctantly obeyed.

"Lead my ho hose to the stable"aded Turkin.

He put the horse in the stable with the others, but he was closely watched all the time.While he was thus engaged he saw the boys Gregg and Turkin in close conversation, and though he could not hear what was said, he was satisfied he was talking about his coming interview with the Princesses.

Then the two approached him as he came out of the stall.

"Come over here boy, and hurry up."said Turkin.

"I am here."replied Jack.

"I see you here.He sneered."I want to tell you something. There is never in the whole world I believe more prettier and goodier girls than the Princesses, but I wouldn't want to be in your boots facing them for anything.See what'll you'll get for running away and leaving a girl in peril from the enemy you coward."

He was led in to the house, and told the guard their mission.

In a few minutes he was ushered into the room of the Princesses where this time all the girl and boyscout officers were assembled.

The two boys were ordered to stand by the door.

Violet and her four sisters looked the prisoner over carefully and though he did see even which almost shocked him that they were evidently too pretty to look upon, but that just now they looked quite serious and Mildred who sat near by had turn d up her nose.

"Are you German, Irish or Swedish?"Asked Violet, who was to be the spokesgirl of her sisters.

"Neither."

"That is just what I expected you might say, das disrespectful. Next time Say No Miss vivian.Of course it stands to reason no one wishes to be shot eh Penrod."

"Just my sentiments, no one wishes to be shot."

"Just so, and Master Jack Saunders you ought to be much obliged to Miss Angelinia Aronburg for not shooting you instead of keeping you so long."

"I am very grateful to Miss Aronburg for her consideration."

"Exactly, consideration which you did not deserve.Since we know you deserted Little Miss Jean Saunders there, when she was imperil you ain't no more use to us, nor the army, nor the country than a knife and fork to a cow."

"I couldn't help being afraid."

"Neither can we sometimes and we go through it just the same.Penrod what is your idea of the situation."

"I have already expressed my views on that subject."

"What's your Name?"To Jack.

"Jack Saunders."

"Is she your sister?"Pointing to Jean."

"No ."

"Can you read and write English."

"I can."

"Did you ever read the story about a monkey that took a cat's paw to haul the chestnuts out of the fire with?"

"I have."

"Well you are that cowardly monkey, and through cowards like you, I, my sisters, here, and all these before me, and all their followers have been often made the cats paw.Do you know what the moril is to that story."

"I think I do."

"You think? I supose all you do is think.I'm myself going to tell you the moral of that story.Did you say your name was Jack Saunders?"

"I did."

"Don't get sassy or you'll find us out"she said very sharply her

eyes flashing, and he was greatly perplexed to know what these beautiful girls were going to do. She then turned to Joice. It's your turn To question him dear."

"What's your age?"asked Joice.

"Seventeen."

"Did you live in England, or Ireland or America?"

"Neither if it will accomodate you just as well Miss Joi ce"replied the boy.

"Where?"

"I come from Canada."

"What's your Nationality.Your name sounds German."

"I'm part Irish , and part German."

"What made you desert a girlscout in danger?"

"I got scared. The Glandelinian soldiers were Zimmermanians and they looked so fierce and savage}}"----

"Oh pooh, pooh. You cannot get out of it that way.I want to say this to you right now.According to your age, we do not just now know what to do to you for that desertion.Do you know what the penalty really is."

"I think I do."

"Well then think again, mr Thinker. Your name ought to be "I think I do." Well Master Jack, would you like to be shot as a deserter."

"Surely you, good girlscouts would not think of doing that to a boy."

"Say listen here, we are not fools."retorted Joice."You deserted a girlscout, who was shot down, and wounded, and the country demands always the life of a deserter.We could shoot you right here and it wouldn't be a sin, and not cruelty either. I hate cowards, I cannot bear them, you are like a serpent at my feet.Yet we are willing to com promise on one condition only.If you are man enough for your age, we are going to give you one single chance to make good.This was the plan before all of us in this room before you came in.It ain't just the thing for us to go on to the christian lines under our Father, when one of our best and prettiest sisters in is in the hands of that vile snake Aug augistinia St Claire.We want her back, and we want nothing more but all his slaves with her, and HIM too if we can capture him.Our guardian however is to act Confederate for us but we don't want to be seen in the business.You were a Monkey, and we were the cats paw.Now we are the MONKEY, and you are the CATS PAW---don't you see"she ended with a pout.

"I don't understand you Princess."!

"You shall accompany us, under guard, and when Evans finds the place where our sister is confined, you shall go in to Augistinia St Claire disguised as a Glandelinian boyscout of the Jo Banyan type and do the talking untill Jennie is secured by us or Evans.You'll be the schemer----don't you see."

"I see but its dangerous, its toomuch for me to try that, and--and--"

"Yes its dangerous I know it."Said Joice.N ow Master Jack do you want to be shot now or after supper, or do as we told you?"

"I'll con sider later."

"You8ll consider now.What's the proposition.Will you try to make good by aiding us and Evans in regaining our sister or be shot."!

"I'll consent to the plan ."He stammered.

"And listen"Said Catherine herself"When we have you at it, and you try to get away, we'll prove to you how good we are at crack shooting understand?"

"I see."

"You don't see, stupid.I asked if you understand!"

"Yes Prin cess."

"Don't call me Princess.I don't tolerate Cowar Cowards calling us by rank.We are plain Miss Vivien to you."

"I see."

"He sees what he shouldn't see."She thought to himself.

Whatever the merits of the plan in which Jack Saunders was compelled to take a pa t part he did not relish the idea of being made a cats paw in the hands of such stern Princesses as they.But it was his only hope for saving himself from facing a firing squad.It involved a sacrifice too to make good, and it required him, with what he should have been desperately willing to do for them to aid them reg i regain their sister which other boys would be willing to take their chances against a whole

ne band of the enemy to accomplish.

"I am ready to hear the whole plan."he said though his voice was quite shaky.

"We'll be ready too when Evans comes"said Daisy.

"But do you think you could trust him, when he goes too close to the spot?" asked Jean herself."

"I don't know if we could trust him or at."replied Hattie struck with the force of the question."But we'll have him guarded.If he tries anything his guards will show him off good and plenty."

"Maybe Penrod you could lend him a yellow feather."Said Jack Sanders.

"I would put one on his back if I had it."Sneered Penrod.

By Penrods order the prisoners cont"not a uniform"was restored to him.

"A deserter usually wears a white uniform."declared one of the other boys,"and a pair of yellow boots.""

"He should wear something else besides that."

"I wonder"said Daisy, couldn't you Penrod, send one of our boys or men to see what is detaining Evans, while we are at supper. "

"I could"said Penrod, but---"

"He's in camp now Princess"said the boy who had brought Jack! He's at general Aronburgs tent.He'll be here in another half hour."

She turned to Jack the coward.

"Could you play some trick on that Augustinia St Claire."

"Perhaps I could,I'll try."

"If you do well, you'll square yourself, and will only recieve a discharge.You understand.But if you desert us you----"

"I'll do the best I can."replied Jack saunders confirmed in his opinion that they really meant to make him pay the penalty either one way or the other by the expressive tones of the Princess.

"Can you write English!"asked Daisy.

"I can."

"I thought you could, you forigners are god at writing.I can speak it, so can my sisters, but not read or write it.You could write that scoundrel a note saying some one wants to see him in the lines."

"Capital."exclaimed Gertrude."That St Claire can read english.I should think Daisy you were English yourself."

"Please Gertrude don 't call me English"she said scornfully.

"I only meant that you can beat the English at tricks."

"Maybe so.I don't them well enough.But the way they persecuted the Catholic Church in times gone by, England is also a glandelinia to us."

"I can manage it if he will fall for it."said Jack suddenly as though a splendid suggestion had occured to him."I could write on some paper that a new child slave is going to be sold to him cheap and he must come and take advantage of the bargain."

"Maybe he will." replied violet doubtfully."Let me see how you can write."

"Can I have apiece of paper to write on, write on."

"Not from us you can't. Gertrude get him a slip of old wrapping paper."

She tore apiece off and contemptiously handed it to him, avoiding contact with him as though he were dust under her feet."

"And I would rather write it with ink.It will look more natural. "

The vivian girls thought so too, and by the light of a candle whdh one of the girlscouts had brought he wrote in Pencil;

"Mr St Claire. Manley wishes to seal you a child slave free."

"He's great at writing---ain(t he"said the admiring guard Turkin.

"Will you look at it Miss Violet!" asked Jack.

Violet ungraciously took the card and looked at it steadily by the light of the candle for a moment, and then threw it down at his feet.

"That will do I suppose"she said ungraciously"But I cannot read English.We are great on tricks but we are not English.I thought you'd write it o in our own language.You'll have to rewrite it sir."

"He did, this time the same in Abbiesnnian."

"Now that's better.You are a sharp scout, and whatever you do if you do it right will work like a charm.We don't feel toward you like we should, and if you faithfully do the work, and aid us rescue Jennie we'll consider.If we can made you brave everything will be all right if not, you will have to pack and go."

"After supper we'll show you a trick or two which we wish to sue use."

Indeed Violet, and her sisters had a wholesome dread of what might be happening to Jennie for they often heard of the horrors of that slave pen of St Claires and they were anxious to go.

"See here though Jack"said Daisy, we don't know as we can trust you and you shall be guarded well inwhatever you perform."

"I'll do just what you tell me to do."

Just then a soldier entered the room after knocking..The guard had admitted him."

"Is the Princesses within!"asked the man."

"Yes sir.""Said Penrod."They are there before you."(pointing.

""I wish to see them please."

"Well see them then."said he kind of sarcastically."Where doyou think they are.In Europe!"

He walked over to where they were sitting.

"I bed your pardon for disturbing you Princesses."said the man bowing. "Whom have we the honor of addressing."demanded Violet rather coldly for she didn't like the stupid action of the fellow who though in a purple uniform was q another foriegner.

"Captian Somers of the army of the nation, at your service Princess."

"You seem to be a Englishmen."

" I am.I was fortunate as to enter the army."replied Sommers with promptness.

"That explains it, though we prefer to know what mettle you are of before we enter our forimners in our armies."

"I have only tosay Princess that I am not afraid of anything."

"May I and my sisters here ask your business with us sir.

"I have a small squad of seven boyscouts with me.They have come by boat over the flood from general vivians lines."

"Right boyscouts!"Asked Violet.

"Yes, and not only that but Radcliffe your f friend is with them."

At this Gertrude jumped to her feat with an exclamanation.

"Send him in only"said Violet."Do youbelong to any regiment of general ,vianslines."

"I do Miss Princess.We had a long travel but we stopped first for some food food, we were half starved.We came all the way from there and were followed a hundred miles by various enemy bodies of cavarly."

"From Evangeline St Claire."said all in the place."

"Yes fromthere."replied Captian Somers..We "We reached h ere saftly however assuring us that Miss Angelinia Arunburg would be here. I didn't expect you were back here after being captured by the enemy. But it is like heaven to see you safe and sound. One of the girlscouts Jean Turpen gave me a card requesting me to deliver it to you."

.He handed Violet the card, she read the words on the card.

Let the boy Radcliffe in at once"Replied violet, glancing at Gertrudes surprised face."

"Certainly Princess."

How did he get here!"asked Jean puzzled by the remarks which had been made in her presence.

"I cannot tell, but he is here but that boyscout can come through anything," looking again at Gertrude.

The boy Saunders was taken away again, as it was not desirable for them to allow him in the presence of Radcliffe.Everyone expressed their surprise, and Violet directed all in thep lace to get theroom ready for the new comer as speedy as possible.

"I am sorry to leave you Princess"said Captian Somers"But I will endeavor to return as soon as you have finished yor supper if you desire my services."

"Thank you Captian somers.I will see him at once."

.The f famous boyscout was ushered in, and was greated as an old dear friend by Violet and her sisters fis fist, and by Gertrude too and Penrod fairly hugged him tight.They had been long seperated.Just as this scene was ensuing supper call deme and every one therefpe went to the dinning room. After all greating was exchanged and sumpor was on Radcliffe looked serachingly on or at Jean, and said;

"I know all about your misfortunes Jean."

"Yes she was wounded several times in quick succession."

"Yes, that's true but that's nothing compaired what I mean"said he sharply."The whole army down there knows it by now.Where's that deserter Jack.Did he escape."!

"No said Gertrude"He's under close guard.

"He is a make believe Irish boy"said Mildred coldly.

"I want him whatever he is if it is only for evidence against him."said Radcliffe."That is what brought me down here."He's wanted by general Vivian for that desertion.The idea of deserting a ni girl in danger. The whole army is talking always about it."

"I don't just now though pr opose to give him up "Said violet.

"I don't understand it"said Radcliffe perplexed.

"I should be glad of an explanation, and she told him her plan.

"I have nothing against that proposition, but I wish to know whether you can take chances with him.If he bolts bolts away on you from coward ice he'll bring you disaster in that enterprise."

"Radcli d Radcliffe I hope you will consider myposition in this mater matter"said Joice."

"It's upto you Princesses.But if the boy is a coward he must not be permitted to be without a strong guard on that expedition.He may desert even you, or betray you to save himself.It is not for me to say what should be done with him.If you carry out your plan Violet you must be careful.I am positive he is more dangerous to you than the enemy or the forest fire."

"I regard the person sure as a coward"added Daisy."My sisters and myself are very well aware of him for I know the full details about his desertion and so do my sisters."

"Your feelings and those of yor sisters shall be respected, Violet,but we all must do our duty"answered P Radcliffe firmly."He should be taken to general Vivian.But what you say goes."

"I suppose there's no help for it."replied Daisy.

"Not the least.To trust himwithout being watchful would be like throwning yourself into a pit of molten iron."

"I am sorry he was ever taken into the scout Regiments"said Mildred."but not knowing him he was counted in with us.Hi his accounts will be settled if he fails us."

"How did you happen to reach us!"asked violet.

"We got across a part of the flood in a strong gasoline launch. What's the name of the deserter."!

"Jack Saunders."

"And he ran away from Jean when she was shot by the enemy."!

"He did, and Jack jim himself the good boy then detailed the par ticulars of the sad event."Major De Banyan one ofour scouts was shot adkilld at the same time"he added."

W"Was any others killed!"asked Radcliffe.

"I don't believe so.but poor Jean sure had a hard timepulling through.And yet she saved me from being killed and got wounded too."

Violet then gave Radcliffe an account of how she and her sisters were rescued.

"I and they were made a cats paw of these Clandelinians who wished to bring us to the camp."Continued violet.You did not meet Evans on the way did you Radcliffe."

"I did not expect to find him here.Was he the one who got you and your sisters out of the enemys clutches."

"Yes with the help of Our blessed Lord."e exclaimed violet."He's good on tricks."

"Well "said Radcliffe."I'll tell you wa what I'll do.I'll have some priest to morrow offer a Mass that you'll be successful in finding poor Jennie.I wish I could go with you but duty prevents me.Otherwise I'd shoot that St Claire."

"If we catch him we'll hang him if he did anything bad to Jennie" said Violet."

Everything else now was explained,and now came up the question in regard to the disposition of violets Romorplan.Radcliffe declared he had no aurthority to discharge the plan, but he would report the case by telegraph to General vivian..Violet, and her sisters had planned to proceed fromPort Ro a Royal to the north district of Evangeline St Claire by the way of the north branch of the Big Girl Knool Road.Because of his en deafgs to regain the Vivian Girls Jack Evans had resigned his command as Captian General, and was no longer in the field of active operation, and many of his staff officers had been assigned to other commands.The doughty general for his loyalty and brother like freindliness to violet and her sisters had won the admiration of the nation; the present generation would always remember his great services and the services to come and

posterity will enroll his name among the oldest and bravest defenders of the Abbiennian cause. Violet and her sisters were as determined as a tigress that her sister should not remain much longer at St Claires. They'd land an army against that position and give no quarter if that was the only way to secure her. Radcliffe always considered himself under strong obligations to the young little Princesses, and they had always despite their dignified position paid their respects to the distinguished boyscout. Whenever he came or where wherever he went he was always most warmly greeted, even by Evans, and little Jannie left at general Vivians was particularly fond of him, but knew many secrets of Radcliffe which which she was not won't to tell. In fact though no one in knows it in the members of the story Radcliff is Angelinis Aromburgs oldest sister in disguise. Her other sister was killed at Delights junction.

During that time of supper after the debatement on the deserter was over, Radcliffe was bold enough to ask a great favor from Violet and her sisters.

"I will do what I can captian Radcliffe you may be sure" she said. When the favor was asked. "I remember poor little Jannie well and I have always heard excellent accounts of her from general Aromburg. I know it was throughher own influence that Evans found us."

"There is not a better girl fit for child scout service, Princess, and if she can be so she is worthy of any place which your Government can give her, even if she may be tooyoung to be a girlscout." replied Mac Radcliffe warmly. You alone I know besides your sisters, know who I am in disguise."

"Certainly I know who you are, and so does Gertrude. But no one else. By the way captian, a certain general called upon my father in relation to your affairs of aiding in saving Penrod from his foes more than a year ago I believe."

"Indeed Princess." And Radcliffe understood that "he" was indebted to the Emperor and his fair daughters for his position as Captian general of all boy and girlscouts in the army of scouts under the Princesses known as the Rangers.

"I am very grateful to you Princesses.

"Don't mention it, Penrod whose life you saved on different occasions thinks we have not yet half paid the dept yet."

"You have more than paid it, Violet, and if I had known I was indepted to you for my p position I should hardly have dared to speak to you in behalf of little Jannie."

"Don't be modest captian Radcliffe. I have no scruples whatever in asking favors for such officers as yourself and your friends, nor in granting one rather. Unless they can show merit and education I invariably refuse to do anything for any one trying to become a girl or boyscout, and to be one they must be entirely meritorious, educated, and as brave as possible. .But Penrod you do not ask for my mother?"

"I heard she was in Angelinia Agathia." replied Radcliffe, with some confusion.

"That is the case; she often speaks of you in her letters to me, and when you ever go to Angelinia Agathia you must see her."

"I certainly willdo so Violet." replied the child scout captian. "I have recieved while at Emperor Vivians army a note from one of the government offidials at Glorinanna a commission for one of my own boyscouts in the Rangers. But I wished to give the commissio] commission to Jack who he heard had the little girl hero ne heroine. "

"Not me" said Jack. .You better give it to her. she suffered the most. She deserves it."

Though she blushed she tried to argue out of it, but Radcliffe drew her to 2 "Him" placed an arm round her and said;

"No Jean You have proven to all of us the mettle you have. You too know all my secrets, who I really am and x so you must accept for my sake. This commission papers must be recieved by som body and since Jack insists you must be the one. The gratitude of the nation to you and all our scouts knows no bounds for all of us are more to the whole nation than all the rest of the world. .So you must accept. A furlough furlough too of thirty days has been granted to me, and therefore I come here, instead of going home. ."

Jean blushed still more but she gladly accepted amid the cheers of Penrod and all those present. Radcliffe had found Jean as pleasing as pretty and as grateful as ever. Some of those who knew Radcliffe wept with joy when they saw him. Violet then said;

"Penrod I have heard I lost my important papers after our being carried away by the enemy."

"I don't believe you had." said Penrod with a smile.

"I thought so. But I only heard it. It was the talk of many armies even among the Glandelinians."

"They were lost."

"Lost!"

"Certainly "said Penrod. "But they were recovered."

"Who r secured them."

"My lovely friend Jannie Turner."

"I'm glad she did. There is nothing she cannot do. Through her and Jannie Evans managed to find me, and even for the same cause he n knows whose hands Joint Jannie is."

"I suffered myself rather than give them away" said Penrod. I could not resist the appeal of Jannie turner when she was shot by the enemy in the leg."

"I am glad you did not . Those Professional spies are dangerous fellows. I don't see how you managed to edlude them."

"Poor little Jannie is a noble child." added Penrod."

"And never has she been away from Angelina since she was brought to entertain her."

"How is her condition!" Asked Violet.

"Very grave. She won't let herself recover because she is afraid she'll never see you and your sisters again."

"She also will and Jannie too."

Radcliffe was well known by all in general Aromburgs army, and he was welcomed as he went through the streets with the Princesses as one who had come forth from the grave. Gertrude had secretly wept over him, the general had rejoiced over him, and all the boy and girlscouts r drowd over him. He told all who interviewed himthat he had spent thirty days between Evangeline St Claire and Trinoque before having reported to general Vivian for duty. He told how he had been then ordered to join the regiment by the emperor who only had anything to say over him; to take command of the regiment in which he had been commissioned. He told in the first bloody action for the prevention of the enemy from entering Trin oque Trinoque and of stopping the enemy from crossing the bridges which was a disasterousone for the enemy he saw general Fredrick Nance be the first one to mount the enemys ramparts in a counter attack ad turn and turn the tide against the enemy. He told how the christians and the enemy had fought with desperation and how general Standard a new officer urged his men to deeds of valor which did much to retrieve the fortunes of the day Radcliffe told how for their her i heroic conduct for that first terrible action near Evangeline St Claire on that eventful morning they were made major generals. Radcliffe was there too as he said and saw that what one did for his country they also did for their regiments, spurring them on in the frightful battle of the Ava Maria heights on that fatal August the Fifteenth. .He told how after the foe had been crushed in those six frightful assaults upon the heights, the christian forces swept foward in persuit like an avalough delving before them irrestibly the flying hordes of the Federalites. Then he told how after wards came the thrilling intelligence that Trinoque was recaptured, still that dreadful evening the indomitable Hanson vivian drew his grip tighter and tighter upon the scattering hordes of the enemy at Trinoque ,still Robert Vivian pressed on through the horrid inferno driving the foe across Evangeline St Claire creek in utter route, and still general Stanck a thun e thundered over and through the shattered host of Federals, until Manley who came to the aid of De Federal finally temporarily checked him, but the Glandelinians enclosed at Trinoque were forced tosurrender, and 10,000,000 prisoners were taken there. Radcliff said he was there to witness the humiliation of these Glandelinians. All over the battle field cann ons had been roaring, and all the victorious army shout shouted and sang Glory, Hallelujah as the military power of those two De Banyan Glandelinian armies crumbled and fell before the fierce counter attack. First it had attacked, then firmly it had stood, defying as it seemd even Heaven and Earth, defying freedom for little slaves justice, and humanity, it drooped and expired almost in the twinkleing of an eye before general vivians fierce hordes of Concentinians."

"The nation willbe filled with joy violet when this news speed. Too bad you didn't see it. It was a terrible battle, but a goodone for results. .Soldiers and civilians in our army there rejoiced together, child scouts shrieked their cheers and fromthe hearts of all rose the paean of thanksgiving to God and His Blessed Mother for the great victory which had crowed our arms. But in the midst of the peoples glad

mean of the rejoicing of the victory came the terrible shock of the death of the hero of Trinoque, poor general Standard, and the christian army is shrouded in mourning for him, who fell just as he rose to the glory of the mighty work he had hoped to accomplish. I saw the battle to its end. The surrender of Trinoque was followed by that of Stanton and others in portions and in of portions of the enemy army that couldn't escape. The division to which poor general Standard belonged had been ordered to garrison a post now near the spot till the army moves to follow the defeated foe, and general Stanislaw who had been attached to the same Corps but for brave and skilful conduct in one of general vivians mighty counter charges had been promoted to the rank of lieutenant general."

"Glory Hallelujah"shouted Gertrude. The city of Evangeline St Claire is saved. Federal crushed. Radcliffe my dearest friend I would hug you if it were dignifdd for me to do such a thing in public in the camp."

"Never mind your dignity sister"he whispered. Then louder;"I almost feel like beingsilly myself now that the enemy for once got such a good licking. I am delighted indeed as if I was in heaven to see you are safe home again. Do you remember your experiences Joice! Do you remember the bloodhounds."!

"Shall I ever forget them!"replied Joice, feelingly.

"Do you remember it. Would you tell me about it if you could while we are on our wayback to headquarters!"

"I could not forget that any more than I could forget you."Answered Joice, as she wrung the hand of her devoted friend."So you told me Evangeline St Claire is saved. The armies under general Vivian have fought through the conflict to the end."

""We have had a hard time of it while in the foe camps"said Hettie. "But we do not worry about what we went through. We only wish to find and secure Jennie."

"Do you suppose, Princesses if it were done over again, you would be willing to go through it o with it once more!"Asked Radcliffe.

"Upon my soul we should."Replied Hettie, warmly"If I knew I even had to die on the cold wet ground even, by the side of my dying sisters after many years of hard service, I would go to it as cheerfully as I would eat my dinner when I am hungry. Radcliff if there are any little girls that loves their country I do. I am willing to fight for her as we do, and willing to die for her;and God too;This is a most infernal war, I have seen enough in the past, and of the massacres of children, and what we went through in our captivity recently to know the Glandelinians give no quarter to christian children and murder them in dreadful ways. I know you realize that fromwhat you have seen. Our soldiers of course are taken prisoner but what they go through in the Glandelinian prison pens, it is better they would have recieved no quarter either. They fare worse than the poor little slaves, and I think God though if I and my sisters despite all we may do in the future, live to see the end of it."

"So do I."responded , all the others within hearing fervently.

"With the end of this horor everything would be more like heaven"Said Gertrude who had patiently followed her own heroes through their careers of duty and suffering."As we have seen so much carnage and battle, seen many inthe toils of the foe, in the loathsome prison camps of the Glandelinians, so should we soon see the slaves poor little things in the hour of their greatest earthly joy. We have entered many willing rescued children as scouts in our camp. What do you think of Radcliffs proposal about little Jennie."!

"How old is she Gertrude."

"Gingigore has captured the rare records of her past from the enemy too. I have carried them with me. Here they are."

Violet took it, and as her sisters looked on over her shoulder or gathered around her they read;

"December 25th, By the Rev Hensey D.F.D Jennie Mary Lillian assuming ----the middle name of Francis-For saint francis, was baptized---- on this day of 1910 at the age of seven years. St Vincents Church. True Abbiennnian. "

"I,ll have to examine her"said violet."If she passes the examination I'll get her the pull. You know it takes a pull to get in as a scout but we will try to pull her in. If she is willing of course."

"She is. She begged me to ask you. She asked your father but he said it was upto you and your sisters only."

"I'll [illegible]."

"They reached the building again. There was a select assemblage

of officers and men, and of girlscout leaders. Half an hour after they had entered the headquarters, an officer of high rank stopped at the entrance. He was dressed in an elegant gray uniform of which glistened the silv silver leaves that indicated his rank. No one would have mistook him for a rebel in any [illegible] him. With nervous energy he dashed up the steps, and was permitted to enter by the guards who saluted him.

"I wish to see the Princesses."said the gray coated man contentiously.

"The Princesses are engaged just now sir, and cannot be seen."replied the man who answered.

""They can be seen."exclaimed the orderl. Tell them General Jack Evans has returned, they are expecting me."

"Oh that's different sir."The man went up the stairs to the front room, where the Princesses and their friends were assembled.

"General Evans is here"Said the man suddenly opening the door."He wishes to see the Princesses.

"Next time knock on the door, and don't rush in like a cyclone" said Violet excitedly."What are you trying to do scare us, sent him up, and learn manners. Next time you rush in without knocking you'll eat bread and water for a week."

The man apolized and went out. A few min utes Evans was announced.

"Well my dear Princesses. I am with you once again"said the man as he rushed into the room on being announced n and seized violet by the hand."From the deepest depths of an honest heart. I congratulate you upon your approaching happpiness. We'll find Jennie very soon."

"Thank you Evans. We are delighted to know you have succeeded in your winning. We have secured a wagon train for ourpurpose. It needs only her rescue to complete our happiness."

"Miss Angelinia Aronburg I greet you "Continued Evans dashing tward the famous little girlscout, and taking her into his arms as if she were his own daughter.

"Sakes alive"exclaimed the happy girl."If it ain't Jack Evans."

"Jack Evans it is if you please"He said hugging g her tight."I trust you are quite well Gertrude."

"Everybody is pretty well except Jean and Jack. Well I'm---I declare I'm so flustered I can't speak a word to night."

"Just the same Gertrude, my dearest long lost friend you are thr proud and happy girlscout leader of the noblest young children adventurers in this noble country the Girl and boyscout Rangers."said Evans magnificently.

"Excuse me sir"said Penrod but I have long desired to have you make little Jeans acquaintance. and "and he led the general to another part of the room where little Jean Saunders sat, blushing and beautiful.

"Jean my little heroine of Abbiennnia this is my friend general Jack Evans. General. Little Miss Saunders, the angel of our camps."

"Jack also took her into his arms but was careful of her injured shoulder and sad"I ought to bend in homage befoe one little girl like you who is mighty enough in her beauty, ve virtues, and bravery to wind the heart of not only yor friend Jack, but me and all who are in the army. I have heard lots of you. All the newspapers in the country are written full with statements of your heroism though how it was done I know not."

Jean blushed deeper than ever as she trid to embrace him in return and as she expressed her plesure at meeting so famous a man wjo who had shared the toils, hardships and sufferin gs of the Princesses.

J"Jean I have long known you, though we m now meet for the fist time; but permit me to add that your boy friend Jack is one of the many boys who is worthy of the deepest friendship of all the girls in our army and boys as well. For what he has done for many other little girls in times past is enough to fill volumes to tell it."

"I am afraid I shall be jealious of you, general laughed Gertrude. "You have been almost hugging little Jean to death."

"Nay my heart is big enough to hold you all Gertrude"c n continued Evans, still holding the little girl with one arm and on e of the Vivian Girls with with another."I pray God and His Blessed d Mother that these poor little angels, Violet and her sisters, and little Jean may never be called upon to go through what they have ever suffered. And what they have done for me in return is splendid. When you sink down to die upon the hot ground, overcome by smoke and heat,

exhausted by exertions, perils, and sudden sickness, borne under by starvation, with the savage blood hounds baying in the distance, and more savage glandelinians by hundreds lying in wait for you and them, when you lie down to die under these awful conditions, and they---pointing to violet, 'r sisters"steps between you and the quaking messenger of death, who already has a grip upon you, when they at the imminent peril of theirbyoung little lives procure food and clothing to restore you, when they have stood over you li! like the little angels they are, and won back the breath of life to your feeble body, when they have done this for you, you will know them as I know them."

As he finished a great tear slid down each side of his great bronzed face, but he hugged Jean and violet tighter again, and smiled again. Gertrude pressed the great hand she held and q a tear lurked among the roses of her bright cke cheek.

"But all this, and more she had done for me."

"And yet you have done far more for us."exclaimed Hattie pointing to Evans."When we were so often wounded and helpless, when we would have perished in forest fires, when the enemy s'm almost had us---"

"Upon my word, we are getting sentimental Hattie, and we had better subside."In terposed the general."In troduce me to the rest of the scouts."

Hettie complied, and when they were all assembled he made to him one of his most characteristics speeches which when any crowd hears is held spell bound.Among those present was general Aronburg.

"General"said Aronburg"Permit me to express my warmest hopes for your future happiness in having little Jennie safe and sound in your own arms as you had little jeAnd"saidan little J ean. And may you with the help of God capture the rascals who may have her .I will pray devotely that there will be nothing to mar the harmony of the success of the occasion.Ad when you go, with them on the expdition I hope you a hearty God Sped to all your hopes. But this little Jean here whom you hugged sotightly and long is a little girl like the rest of good motives and of high Christian prinicpals, won by us all in her days of trial and suffering, and as she is true to Her God, a child of Mary, a faithful comrade and child of her country, we hope by her fidelity her bravery and her patriotism, and by her saintliness that she sh ll she shall carve out o her fo t fortunes on the battlefields of this great war."

"Amen"said every one present.

That night the Princesses retired early to make preparations to start the journey.

In next volume will be given a better account of how they had been captured before, and how Evans had even rescued Jennie.

On the next morning the army had advanced the first portion a across the at narrowest part of the flood and concentrated on the grounds nearest Glenor Creek at Alabania.The christiantroops of the advanced part of the army wasposted on wooded heights of an elevation of three hundred feet and all along the creek, on both sides of a stretch of the Big Girl Knool road which was the direct route tward Angelinin Agathia.Beyond this and across the flood on the opposite side were the long wagon and ammunition trains of general Aronburgs army, as well as the more considerableportion of the christian forces.The possession of this Big Girl Knool road was necessary to cover the retreat of vivianias army, as well as to the success of general Aronburgs grandest schemes of preventing Myletzes campaign being successful tward Evangeline Ag athia.

Myletze knowing that a portion of the army was divided, decided to attack this portion that had crossed the flood and capture it ifpossible before the main body could get a r across.It was already coming on to the last week of August.

The attack was started by the Glandelinian Zimmermann ion gorps of general Cannonia, next to which in the line of march was the first main Glandelinian army corps.The action began first with a rolling thunder of many hundreds of cannons on the side of the enemy, and an attempt was made most desperately to force on the advance, and get in between this christ ian force, and vivinia.The slope of one of the rises was very rugged con sisting of irregular ledges, and the whole covered with wood which grew out of the interstices of the rocks and on the shelves where there was earth enough to give life to a tree.In these woods, and among these rocks general Tribunes christian troops were posted, covering vivianias retreat-infantry, sharpshooters, and batterds of mchine guns-----while their heavier cannon were placed in such positions that they commanded all approaches to the gap, through which the road passed.

General C nnonia ordered a heavy attack made upon this position, which if successful would drive back the troops in such a direction as to close up all means for the safe retreat of general vivinia, and the childish haired Glandelinian soldiers, looking more like girls in their headwear went forward with the utmost alacrity to cary the strong position. They rushed in fearful numbers, and most dogedly up the steeps to a stone wall behind which the main line of the christian troops rested, slowly driving the long line of skirmishers before them.No person could count even by the hundred at his fastest, the rate the Glandelinian soldiers fell dead or wounded before the terrific fire they met, indeed it seemd as if torrents of blood was flowing and moistening the soil where the countless numbers of reckless, and dare devi devil Glandelinian soldiers so insanely a insanely gave up their lives but they won aportion of the ground and held it.The Angelinians fought with the utmost desperation and their generals rallied them in vain to try and hold back the screaming fiends in gray.Partial successes and partial reverses occured in different parts of the line untill nine of o clock that mornig morning, and all the artillery was actively engaged.However for the enemy, the day was not yet won, they only had gained a bloody adventage, and hundreds of thousands of more were to fall on the field, before the obstinate christians would yeild the position.At ten oclock the head of the First army Corps appeared under Ranata which had been ordered forward by general Myletze to the support of Cannonias hard pressed Zimmermannian forces . As general Estrabrock appared before the lines the utmost enthusiasm was manifested by the Glandelinian troops.They shouted their cheers, as if he had already aided them in carying the position.The Glandelinian general was examining the ground, for his quickeye had already grasped the situation. But he did not know the ground like the christian general did.However Myletze had ordered him to make a feint in favor of general Stancks Mic-Hollestinian forces, but satisfied that an atack on the west side of the road would not be a success he turned his attention to thatportion of the christian line at the e east of the road, which had been reported upon by some Glandelinian girlscouts.The Glandelinian general pooceeded ,as they always did, directly to the front, for he seemed to know precisely what he or his officers should be about, and to have all his Glandelinian forces entirelyh a at hand.Then he began to sed off his u quickest orders, and the members of his staff, were seen dashing about in every direction, till a most extensive line of assault was formed. Batteries were posted behind the troops, and the shot ad shells screamed through the air over the heads of the lines of soldiers.Then the order toadvance was given, the long line moved up the precipitous steeps and for half an hour the battle raged with tremendous fury.The losses of the foe was dreadful, the christian soldiers never missing their aim and men in gray went down like leaves from a forest. General Estrabrook found every instant of his time occupied as he dashd fom one dvision to another, while shot shell, and high explosives and bullets flew through the air like hailstones.It was a scene likevthe World War on this extensive attack line.General Ea Estrabrookfor his recklessness was killed, but on marched the victorious glandelinian wave, con quering evey obstacle, and driving the christians before them, but it was nearly noon before the red field was won entirely, and the Glandelinians were inpossession of the crests of the mountains and slopes and fields.

Had general Concentin ian Aronburg been unable to send forces across the flood to the help of the others a disaster would have occured.He recieved word of the conflict over there, and the most important part was the fact that Cannonias main line of troops were being concentrated on a most fortified line, and that general Benno Evans was massing his ... line behind the creek in readniess to support Cann onia, and Hushaum Mic-Whirther was advancing after the recoiling army under vivianis.

His order was to general Blain N ight Linger, "Take Mic-Whirther, strike, him, and reic reinforce vivania. Vivania.I'll send Watson to retake Glenor Creek.Off with you both quick."

This was a great and mon momentious battle of the series of bloody engagements of Myletze's bloody Angelinin Agathia Campaign, which at this time temporarily checked the invasion, and drove the Glandelinias nearly fifty miles back the distance they had won. The battle tosuccor vivienia was a most fearful strife, a most determined and savage battle, fought with a utmost bravery and fury on both sides bordering on utmost desperation and frenzy.The event was to involve a mighty issue--no less than the fate of Vivienia's great but shattered army, and the nation

and the nation,for the moral effect of a victory by Huebaum Mic-Whirther would be now even disasterous to the cause, and to general Arenburg too if not entirely fatal, while it would open to Myletzes mighty army the vast storehouses of wealth of the christian countries..The Glandelinian forces under Blain Night Linger who fought on that day, from the many skillful generals under him who directed each desprate operation down to the lowest private who cheerfully and zealously obeyed the orders of his superiors in the midst of the dreadful scenes of the battlefield understood and appreciated the issue of that dreadful day.The Abbiennian Government gratefully remembered them all and none with more lively sense of obligation than Blain Night Linger, whose great skill and judgement, no less than his heroic bravery brought victory out of the most stubborn conflict inferstae to him to save Vivianis, upon which more than upon the desprate operations of any otherportion of the dreadful battle line the fate of the daycentirely rested.He was face to face with general Izner Mylotzes best men Huebaum Mic-Whirther, Mylotze, the most vicorous and determined leader of all the Glandelinis war, the pet of the enemy, and the hope of the Glandelinia government.He was pitted against these two highest and famous Glandelinian commanders who was the executive of the brain of the Glandelinian Government without w whom the Glandelinian nation would los lose the war. The Glandelinian forces under Mylotze made some fearful charges, three of them from Twelve oclock, till three, and it was rottingly terrible to see how these immense waves twenty miles long were dislodged, shot to pieces and three times routed to their own works with frightful loss of men and general officers. The battle against Mylotze and Mic-Whirther was fought and won,but not till mighty sacrifices had been made of precious life on both sides.

For at least Mylotze it was one of the most obstinat e conflicts of the war so far, and for hours between Blain N ight Linger and Mylotze the us issue swung back and forth, and it was doubtful upon which side the victory would turn out.The first Cor s of Abbiennians won foward in a long thirty mile front, and during the hellish con test were driven back in places, scores of divisions were driven to their positions in retreat reduced to brigades or even regiments, and brigades werentirely wiped out, all this happening before the terrible fire of the fdree Glandelinians, and nothing but the unusual and indomitable will and the admirable skill of the general and his staff saved the day.Every weak point in the line was hastily and wisely strengthened by reinforcements, every advantage was used, and every kind of disadvantage counter balanced till e splendid victory was finally assured.General Huebaum Mic-Whirther was ably and most prudently supported by general Mylotze, and immense columnes of troops from otherportions of the vast Glandelinian army were sent to this or that imperiladposition in a vain effort to save the fail ing fotunes of the day.Fresh troops were from to time to time hurled against the christian troops at all points in the wildest and grandest charges on all record wh ich which were forcedback but only again to be strengthened and urged on by the masterly genu genius of general Blain N ight Linger himself untill all that the christian lines had lost was re stored.Later in the afternoon when the attackwas made by the right and centor, the Glandelinian army there had been weakened badly by the large effots ofpulling out toomany troops required to meet an otan disasters on the left, and of course therefore the resistance was accordinaly diais diminished.Therefore with less stubborn and skilful fighting than that done elsewhere the assaults of general Browne and Jack Horner,and of Francis Handonin, and Richardson Haleted in the cen er could hardly have been successful.The n oble and gallant general Horner won immortal honors on this terrific day.He fought like a demon against overy dis advantage, which he skillfully and bravely overcame but at dreadful cost to life and an immeasureable number of wounded.

The result of the frightful battle was less decisive than had been hoped and expected, the losses was more dreaded and more dreadful than even believed to com e from even the splendid fighting and the brilliant partial results obtained.Nevertheless general Huebaum Mic-Whirthers army was most severely handled, its resources and its prestige tremendously reduced, and the object of the movement against vivianis and others was actually frustrated, vivianis was saved, but yet whether the results of the several successful operations on the field were pu prudently agglomerated whether the greatest practicable use was made of the victory along this line of the battle we must leave for the reader to decide.

While general Concentin Jan Arenburg was watching the scenes and preparing other portions of his vast army for action, general Mic-Hollester Turner arrived and was congratulated upon his safty and success in his part of the battle.He gave his opinion that general Vivinnis was saved, and was able to supply information.The order for the other sections was therefoe given to advance at all points.The eye of this general was everywhere, even while his mind was occupied with all the details furnished by all girl and boy scouts who were busy now as customary watching from safe high spots the movements of the enemy, and so forth.He also sent members of his staff in every direction.Indeed he held the vast and complicated mech anism of his armies at his fingers ends.He knew where every brigade Corps and divisions of High Linghers was at that moment and where it was to be an hour from then.He moved his officers all about as a most skillful weaver tosses the many shuttles each with a different colored sinkel thread, through the frabric before him.He was weaving a historic battle on a gigantic scale.

The Winkie Abyssinkilian Reserve commanded by general Stern occupied the Center of the newly forming line of battle.They indeed were one of the noblest body of troops ever on record, and had done some of the most splendid fighting of the war in other conflicts. General Francis Nance ad as if in compliment to himfor his great zeal and his energy was sent to bear the order for the Third Division to advance.The immense bodies of Reserves mofe moved forward with a hearty most cheerful zeal and presently the rolling thunder of their 1,000 cannon,and the rattling volleys of musker musketry as constant in sound as a congregation of people all stamping their feet at once proclaimed the adding and extending of the conflict along Glenor Creek.A portio portion of Reppo Evans command was before them---ko men who always fought with the energy of desperation and a body of troops too who had boasted of never having been yet licked in battle.Though he was not the main commander Evans was the worst one to contend with Beppo Evans army were a worthy and most ferocious and tenecious foe, and most worthily and desprately they were met untill the whole region of the creek looked as if a new forest fde was breaking out, but the Glandelinians had the advantage.Their renowned leader had chosen theirposition, and the brave christiens suffered terribly.

General Evans on his white charger rode up to hisposition in the front of the battle.He though a Glandelinian was very calm and most unmoved in the shower of bullets, the eruptions of high explosives, and all his Zimmermannian troops were gladdened and enncouraged by his very presence.They were always strong and dangerous troops without him, they were more irrestible and dangerous with him.These Zimmermannians were known as the Hobbonites.

He was giving his orders to each officer with the utmost coolness, and spoke words of fire, which indeed bu n burned in the souls of the Glandelinian soldiery.He was there the idol of the main Gladelinian army---and there was not a single Glandelinian soldier or an un der officer who would not have been ashamed to skulk with all this noble example hefoe him.The mighty will of the great Glandelinian general was always communicative to the nerves and muscles of all his soldiers and men and he always multiplied himself thousands of times in the persons of his devoted followers.

They were ordered foward to storm the christian lines in the woods by the creek.On they moved, also the left of Cannoj Cannonins division supported by that of Herdrudes and Franders, nearer and nearer to the long stretch of woods where the powerful christian lijes lines were concentrated, and still they poured in the most deadly fire untill the resistance before them was sensibly diminished.

Beppo Evans then sent the word all along the line to go "Forward" and the whole Glandelinian wave supported by two of Huebaum Mic-Whirthers Reserve divisions rushed on with their well known "Devil"Yell? and entered the pine groves.The Christians though continuing their withering fire were falling back before them, and the Glandelinias rushed on through the woods carrying all hefoe them, sweeping across the open fields on the other side, and still onward to other woods beyond the fields.

But here suddenly they found themselves thrown upon bodies of fierce fresh troops of Winkins hurried up to meet them at all points. From the very shadows of the wood, groves, and from thevffields, and from stone walls and foe fences, and from farm houses came showers of bullets grape and canister and shells as if from a sheet of flaming fire.The entire forefront line of the Glandelinians fell dead and wounded to a man along the whole front, the remaining portions was threatened with annihia annihilation, and the left wing was destroyed.The woods was suddenly

packed with [illegible] christian soldiers, and teaming with hastily brought up artillery, a country Orphan Asylume not far off of large extent seemed on fire from the smoke of rifle fire from all windows, and other openings, and the half Annihilated glandelinian force still seemed to melt away like the snow on a hot stove, the in the face of that galling fire.They however closed up their shattered lines, and twice tried to charge on, but as fast as they did so fell in awful numbers, and the survivors fell dogedly back pouring in volley upon volley upon the dense masses of christians.The fortunes of the day for the enemy seemed suddenly to have been reversed, what had been a real swaping victory a moment before now became dismal defeat.Had the christians just defended their position all would have been well, that is for the enemy, but General Jack Horners main line was advancing with fiendish yells of their own.It was a most critical moment in the fortunes of the day, but for a time it seemed indeed that the genuis genius of the man who held the reins in his hands was equal to the occasion.He was not even half a mile or a quarter of a mile in the rear, he was in the front, where he could see the indications of threatening danger, of disaster, where he could promptly meet and counter actthe elments of defeat,which had begun to manifest themselves.

"General Saunders"said he in his calm but earnest tones.

The glandelinian general mentioned sa spurred forward his horse, and saluting the general, stood in readiness for his commands.

"General general Henry Andersonis to send me his best divisions immediately.

It rained shot shell and canister on the hillside as the general dashed away to execute his order, and presently the best divisions consisting of the Twentieth, and the Thirty ffst Omarian under the command of general Hendrude Stanck double quicked down the hill, amid the falling shot and bursting shell, which crashed fearfully through the trees, and tore up the countryside in their mad flight and terrific explosions.They were veteran Glandelinian troops commanded by a veteran soldier of skill and utmost bravery.They passed the general on their march, and it seemed as if his eye lighted up with great satisfaction as he saw the spirit which they manifested.

The glandelinians reinforced repelled the assault, successfully, and then still more reinforced started on to charge again.

"I think our troops will hold the ground."said general Glide passing the shattered lines of the christian Reserves, and as he drew up his own brigade along the slopes near the stream between them and the exultant Glandelinians. The christians fired in volleys first, and then at will but they did their work most desperately and with great heroism heroism. None flinched, though the foes attack was made with insane fury, none fled. The Glandelinians and their generals however pushed forward their flushed and over confident troops, but the christian lines met them with an ann ihilating storm of bullets, grape, canister, and hand grenades, and assisted by the Corps under Turpo and those of generals Remington and Patricksers, repelled the assault.Reppo Evans's lines suffered most severely ad and a large number of Glandelin ian officers of all rank were killed and wounded in vain attempts to rally them.The Glandelinians again fell back to thepos tions beyond the woods from which they had come, and again this part of the chrtian christian line was safe.However there had been a terrible loss among the christian troops also, especially in the Corps that held the brow of the lower hills, and sixteen christian generals were wounded early in the action.The main general of thisportion of the christian line however had saved hisline of battle in thisplace had won a success twice, and still everything seemed for the good,for general Concentinian Aronburgs brain was active.Christian batteries rushed like a train of meteors over the field obedient to his ready thought.Messages of varied import came to him from many division commanders.Already it was reported that it was believed that as many of the enemy had fallen as from a thousand Waterloos.General Saunders was hard pressed could barely hold his position against the foe advancing along his front, and a portion of Cunninghans divisions were sent to his aid.This later venerable soldier went with two of his divisions, but he was mortally wounded, and was borne to the rear.

"Go to that Brigade on the left general Jack Horner, and tell the general in charge not to let his men break away under any conditions." said general Aronburg.

General Horner dashd away, and stood br before the broken fragments

of a division, with hardly a commissioned officer left in the line.This division had gone into action with three hundred thousand men.It only had about thirty thousand men left.They were noble and brave fellows, and they were even then only yeilding when there seemed to be no one to lead them. They were giving way, and making a gap in the line through which the desperate glandelinians could burst, and overwhelm the column.General Horners saw at a glance the state of the case.He blamed not the men, it was the fault of the pressure of the enemy, it was impossible to stand before them in sudh such small numbers, thirty thousand qg against two million and the officer upon whom the command had devolved was not in fit condition to command it.He was rendered weak and inefficient from recieving four wounds and could not do a thing in such a trying emergency.

"The general desires us to hold thisline at all haz arc hazards " said Jack Horner saluting the officer."You are wounded wounded badly.Where is the general of this division?"

"He has gone where all the rest have gone."replied the colonel in command of the division."

"Where's general Callahan Jeromoes."?

"He's got his hands fullyp yonder."

"You must hold thisposition without fail.I'm bringing up some of my troops."

"Can hold it if you take command."said the wounded officer."I am too injured to even move."

"I'll lead"Exclaimed Horners fiercely.

"Hurry sir before it'll be impossible to g hold any longer."

"Forward my brave boys.My troops are coming to your help.The day will soon be ours if we stand up to it a little longer."shouted he to the hard pressed Angelinian troops whose thin ranks were rapidly becoming thinner in the face of the fierce fire to which they were su j subjected.. "Follow me"he added, in clarion tones, as he swung his ox sword into the air.sir. A faint cheer burst from the ranks of the Division proving that the men still had the same spirit, and they clutched their muskets tighter and looked sternly tward the enemys line.

"Don't let the enemy spoil your good rado record for this day my gallent fellows."continued general Jack Horner."no Yo have done gloriously for our cause, stick to it to the end.Remember what your friends the vivian Girls, the Darlings of the Nation have gone through. General Aronburg for their sake expects you to hold thisline and for God's sake do it.He sent me down to you with reinforcements.Follow me therefore. "And he urged his foaming steed through the columns, and waved his sword over his head.

"Down with the enemy lets go into them hard boys."cried one of the lieutenants as the ranks closed up and they followed the in trepid christian officer backyto the position from which they had retreated. However the Glandelinians had seen the break and were taking swift advantage of it.They rushed forward whooping like Indians but being reinforced by general Horner the fragmentary division now stood like a wall of iron, and poured a storm of fire into the advancing hordes, before which they quailed, and then retreated..

"Bravo, my noble fellows.General Aronburg is looking at you,and he shall know all about it."

"Hurrah"Shouted the brave men, who had gathered new life and hope from the inspiring words of the young general.

"You will stand firm now won't you?"demanded general Horner.

"Hurrah."Yelled the reor ganized revivified little forde so hastily that Horner fell back from the front to return to hisposition to bring down more troops to the aid.

"General Horner."said a familiar voice, almost in a yell."Horners by all that is grand and beautiful."

Horners turned and saw a man approaching him from the ranks of an adjoining regiment.He was dressed in the uniform of a brigadier general and was begrimed with smoke and his cheek was blakens blackened by close contact with the piece in his hand.

General Fred Nance"Replied gorher Horner as his old friend rushed up to his side, and seized his hand."What are you doing here?"

"I happened up here on important military business, and I went in as a volunteer on my own hook."replied general Nance, still shaking the hand of the staff officer, though the bullets were whistling and the shot and shell were roaring round him

"That's like you.Have you no position?"

"I have a Corpsunder my command but its almost annihilated now."

"By orders of general Aronburg I place you in command of this broken division."said general Horner."

At this moment the main general rode up, and Horner referred the matter of the command to him.When he learned what had happened he installed Fred Nance in the temporary charge of the division.Horners said a few words to the boys to get them to know their new commander.He told them who and what Fred Nance was, the new general stepped in front of them, and went to work with us his usual skill and bravery.Horner left his friend with a promise to see himagain as soon as possible, and rode back to the general.

There was a certain stretch of woods on the left which the general regarded as the key to theposition, and which he had determined to take and hold.He was in the act of riding forward for the purpose of examining this point in person, as he did on all important occasions.General Horners reported to him just as he was leaving the front of the most advanced line of troops.He contin ued his hold reconnoissance till he reached the top of the hill, where he dismounted and went foward some distance on foot.He cooly and carefully surveyed the ground, returned to his hose and dismounted.The storm of musket balls from the point of woods was kept up all this time with the most determined vigor.The great manly form of general Aronburg had been conspicious on the field all the morning, and afternoon, and indeed the Glandelinians had fired at him indiv idually a hundred thousand times, but he seemed to have a charmed life.He had been spared to complete the work he had done and begun and which too he had so ably and successfully carried forward.As he mounted his hose he sent Horners off on a mission to the bateries of artillery planted on a long high rise of ground behind him.It was in the midst of one of the hottest fires of the battle at this spot.Sixty men had dropped near the general,and ten of his staff.He turned and started for another part of the field but had hardly advanced a pace before he was struck in the foot by the fragment of a shell.

"You are wounded general."said Horners returning to the spot.

"Carry the oder I gave you if possible general Horners, to general vivianis, advising him not to continue his retreat as it is not safe now." replied he with an expression of pain in his noble features.

Horners galloped off to execute his mission. The general still sat on his horse and gave directions for the capture and holding of the point he had examined at the peril of his noble and precious life.The surg surgeon advised him to leave the field, and place general Evans in main command until the battle was over.He complied with one request, Evans was in charge, but general Aronburg would not leave the field.He swayed backwards and forwards feeling from faintis faintness in his saddle.Still he looked about himhto k cary out the purpose,which filled his mind.

"There's a division on the right of us.Order it foward.General Hubbard and E Kerly are coming up.Tell them to take thesepositions,and hold them and it will be our position."said he feebly but with emphasis.

He then faintad but partially recovered and rode slowly and reluctantly to the rear after he sent word to Angelinis Aronburg that he was wounded.

General Jack Evans was close at hand with the Corps he had been assigned to.He saw the wounded general, spoke to him, praised him and taking main charge of the army at his advise passed on to complete the work which had been so far accomplished, apparently as it seemed that it only remained to hold what had already been gained.General Aronburg had virtually contended with the whole Glandelinian army for the attack on the left was delayed for hours after the victory on the right and center had been won.He too had don e his part in the days work nobly and succ essfully,and there his responsibility for the results of the battle was expected to be terminated.First Evans had went to the rear with his wounded friend, but when assured that the injury, though very severe was not dangerous, and that he must be to the front in his place returned to the field, resolved to take command.Violet, and her four sisters watched proceedings at a distance and marked the progress of the battle and con stantly gave Evans advice.There was extremely heavy fighting in the woods, where genera Hunsey were executing the last order of general Aronburg.The Glandelinians by the delay of the christian attack on the left were enabled to send forward immense bodies of fresh troops, and the combat deepened in fury untill the woods seemed to blaze with fire. Evans rushed in showed him the commission papers proving he was temporarily in Aronburgs place for the day and ordered the line to hold the position.There were plenty of exhausted and shattered brigades vainly

struggling to roll back the ride of defeat which was setting fiercely against them.Hundreds, may thousands of gallant officers lay dead and wounded upon the ground and there was abundance of work for any brave leader who had the bravery to accomplish it.Evans attempted to rally the broken divisions and close up the wide gaps which had been made by the fearful carnage, but general Hunsey was forced back, and what had been gained on the front was lost.At this crisis general Evans sent general Hendro Somers with fresh troops and artillery, and after fearful fighting the ground which had been lost was regained, not to be again abandoned.

In the meantime general Seamming divisions of Angelinians were still crossing the narrowest portion of the flood over the pontoon boats, which as Gertrude had recently pln planned intended for the erection of a larger bridge over the flood which had swamped Gerdrudes Ferry, having run a portion of the Glandelinian batteries during the night before and crossing ad forting their position in safty.One section of the Glande Glimdelinian Gros under general Braggard was posted on the southeast side near the flood holding the heights known as tree hill and other points. Batteries had also been planted on these low heights, which swept the narrow part of the floods and the fields, and the operation of dislodging the enemy from this position was a most difficult and dangerous one. But nothing was impossible for the christians.By Gertrudes plan as recently stated, even at seemig seeming impossibilities a ten hundred foot or yard pojtoon bridge had been built, within two days and nights, and this had enabled much of the force to cross over the flood.Now as the battle was thr threatening to reach its highest fury the Eleventh and Te Twelvth Corps of the Angelinians were moving out from Port Royal, and were effecting a junction with other portions of the battle line,and even reinforcing vivianis who was adi advised for his personal safty to jo njoin in the contest, for as Aronburg was wounded, it was li e likey the enemy might turn off victorious.

It was apparent however the Glandelinians because of the operations of Evans, directed wisly by Gertrude, and violets sisters, was being whipped in every direction, foiled and defeated in all their plans and the christian armies still on the opposite side were being able to ace omplish their work in spite of the desperate and active movement of the enemy to prevent it.It was an extensive and terrible battle.General Nance too before an important part in these operations, each operation as fierce as the whole American Civil war, entirely and he was very conspicious at pleasor Creek, skilful and brave energetic and devoted in all his efforts, untill on the death of general Starns he was compelled to take the commission of the command in his stead and rally the troops who had lost heart over the generals death. General Evans himself decided to take the lower heights held by general Braggard.The rugged steeps of these hills bristled with hundreds of Glandelinian cannon and Evans troops were exposed to a murderous fire as it moved foward and charged up the slopes.General Evans was in the midst of it, and assured the troops that the enemys fire could not destroy them and his conduct had the most inspiring effect upon the men,when the Head of the column approached the vinicity of Gerdrudes Ferry, the glandelinian infantry opened a wave of fire upon it beingposted in a dense forest where their numbers could not be known.A Corps was thrown out to flank the enemy, and so vigorious was this flanking movement that the enemy half destroyed fled precipitatedly over the creek some glandelinians about twenty stopping to burn the bridge behind them, but were shot down.

At three oclock the left wing of Evans line was savagely attacked by the Nic-Hollantinians and all along the line the cannon and musketry blazed from the heights, but the soldiers fought with the most determin ed zeal.Evans was in his saddle, and those who that day temporarily became his staff were hurled away like arrows from a point, or bow to strengthen the weak parts of the line.A division was dispatched to the assistance of Evans who was hard pressed, a and the attack was litera literally expelled.Then Evans army moved forward to storm the heights and carry them.The hills were very steep and rugged and intensely places the rocks presented the appearance of palisades and was covered with dense woods and underbrush but Evans led the intrepid fellows to scale its jagged steeps.Many Abyssinkilian Brigades formed the advance of this dangerous movement, the others were the Angelinian Corps.On dashed the intreped soldiers, fiercely climbing up the dangerous steep as though all of them were mountaineers, and though they fell by hundreds for every three yards they pressed on facing the sheet of flame from two million enemy muskets.The crest of these hills however were carried at

the point of the bayonet, the enemy fled fromthe heights, and yet Evans troops left more than one third of itsnumber of killed and wounded on the ground, but the victory at this point was complete, and Evans sent a report to general Aronburg.

During this time the Glandelinians under Mishoum Mic-Whirther evacuated the region before Alain Night Linger, and retreat retreated toard the main army, posted ofthhe mts southward of them.The storming of the heights was apparently the liveliest part of the great battle of Elenor Creek, directed by general Alain Night Linger with the most consummate skill, and carred out by his staff with a zeal and energy which was insuring a great and most decisive victory.The ground around the vinicity of Elenor Creek was now in hisposseession, the region was purged of the Glandelinians.Alain Night Linger had been the central figure in the scene.He had made himself the idol of thearmy, all his men and officers loved and trusted him, and also he never disappointed them.He was always, in the thickest of the terribliest dangers, to support and to cheer them. On account of him in this battle, everything went wrong with the enemy. General Beppo Evans too was wounded, and his army beaten, and flanked time and again, fell back in disgraceful defeat.Being wounded and out of commission he was superceded by general Mic-Hollester cannon, who too was a fighting man of Glandelinia, and was expcted to retrive the falling fortunes of the day.He made a most desprate attempt to redeem the day. He launched a most desperate and wild attack against a weak place in the christian line, where he was informed there was a large gap between the army of general Night Linger and Viviania.Into this gap general Cannon hurled his most massive compact column, who inspired withhope that their new general would turn the terrible tide of battle wetting so strongly against them fought with themost unwonted despe ation.They poured in waves of troops, through the open space, and fell upon the christian soldiers of the Eighteenth corps with the most feinf feindish valor and irrestible fury.For two hours they were driven back mile by mile,---but Alain N ight Linger flashed befre them like a meteor and he succeeded in rallying them to face the impetious foe.Therefore withIn another hour from both sides of the tremendous gap into which the Glandelinians had wedged themselves deadly volleys of miskstry and cannon were p oured in upon them which destroyed platoons of soldiers for every discharge.They hit the dust in c countless thousands, but fo a time the reckless desperate survivors maintained the conflict.

Still general Night Lin ger dashed along the line, and everywhere restored the breaking column.His voice was a charm on that bloody afternoon and more than any other of the war in which he had been desperately engaged ,this was his battle royal, for with his voice, s his eye, and his commanding presence, he banished confusion and panic, and wrested victory from the army of defeat.Assault after assault made with the most savage fury beyond measure was expoiled, and the Glandelinians finally believed that it was useless to continue.The battle along this point was won and many a andmost earnest were the con gratulations exchanged among officers and men after the bloody affair.General Linger and Viviania had been particularly after notice that late afternoon, not only in the later reforming his army and sending aos aid to Aronburg, but in rallying his army, and repelling an assault against him, and general Viviania personally thanked General Aronburg for his devotion and timely aid.

Chapter Thirty N ine.

A PLAN. A STRANGE AND SPECIAL MEETING CALLED BETWEEN THE GIRL AND BOY SCOUT OFFICERS. THE AMERICAN MYSTERY. THE GIRL AND BOYSCOUTS VOTE "AYE", HONORS AND TWO CHEERS. A TELEGRAM EN ROUTE. A STRANGE DOUBLE ROOM MYSTERY IN GENERAL ARONBURGS HEADQUARTERS. PLANNING IN SECRET. THE A SCOUTS KEEP SPY.

"Girls, and you boys too,I have some very important and great news for you, all of you child scout officers.I'm sure tooyou'll be interested and I hope you'll be as delighted as I am.Come on all of you.What's the matter with you Jack Falters.Gather around in a circle just as if we were going to hold a council and I'll tell you something, that will----that will surprise you all."

A chour chorus of laughter, greated Gertrude Angelines strange figure of speech. Evans and the ivian girls were g ne on their mission to rescue Jennie, and had taken timid Jack along with him them to make him atone for his co wardice or pay the penalty.The detriment came from thirty seven boy and girlscout leaders who proceeded to form an arch of a circle in front of the speaker on a hillside grass plot near the purple canvas tents of the girl scouts camp in Concentinian Aronburgs army.

"What do you mean, a mystery that will surprise us all?"inquired a girlscout officer Julie Hydel with some impatience."Come Gertrude, you just now seem as much a problem with your ideas as little Joan Saunders is wit; with her ways of heroism.Do you know the nicknames some of us are thinking of givin to her?"

"No what is it? "Gertued Gertrude asked.

"The darlin g of the camp."

"The Darling of the camp.! hy Darling!" was the ext question of Gertrude who seemed by this time to have forgotten the giv subject that she started to introduce when she opened the conversation two days after the battle it being August the 25th.

"Darling of the Camp of course "Julie answered."There is no one l ike her.All this time I know she had suffered untold miseries from her wounded shoulder, and still she never makes a sound or complains.She is the herp heroine of our camp. Joan always does everything correctly, so we are not in the least surprised at.any one compal comparison of her being like one of the ivian girls.There hows that.Don't you think you'd beter call her the Angel of the camp,too."

"Not untill you explain to us what the mstery is." Dolores stipulated almost sternly."What I am afraid of is that you have something up your sleave for us to do which seems impossible, and we won't stand for that a single min ute.We'll lay down an hour instead."

"Oh,Yes Dolores you may have your wish if what others say is true." Hattie urner announced so eagerly that everybody present knew that she had an idea and wished expect expectantly for it to come out. "Well Name Gertrude our Plan Girl,everything she plans works soheautifully on the enemy that the Glandelinians simply"LOVE " her."

Of course everybody laghed at this and in deed the burst of laughter that followed would have been enough to silence the most ambitious joker, but this girlscout was not the least ambitious, so she laughed appreciatively with the others.

"What is the mystery anyway."demanded Helen Pollyanna when the merriment had subsided.

"Oh you girls are making too mu much of that remark."Gertrude finally protested modestly."I am really astonished at every one of you, ashamed of you, in fact for failing to get me.I meant that sos of you would be delighted, others would protest and others would not agree, get me?"

"Oh I get you." Angeline Jennings announced, lifting her hand over her head with an "I know teacher" attitude.

"Well Angeline Jennin gs get up and speak your piece."Gertru Gertrude directed.

"You referred to some mystery, but we might have got you wrong.When you said you would te ll us something very mysterious you meant something which none of us understand.As You looked tward both Penrod and Radcliffe, the later of whom we secretly know, but tell no one you meant I suppose some mysterious plan produced by the Vivian Girl Princesses, over the Abbiesnn dimster.Isn't that it?"

"This isn't the first time that Angeline J ennings r proved herself a regular Sherlock Holmes of our camp."Violet Bronson declared enthusiastically. "We are pretty well equipped with brain s in this camp, I want to tell you.We have Jean the walking dictionary, Gertrude the girl enigma, and all the others the military detectives."

"To frustrate the enemy, every girl is supposed to be a puzzle"Joy St Claire reminded."I don't like to snatch any honors away fro any one but you know, we should always have the truth."

"Yes indeed let us have the very truth about this interesting delightful announcement that Gertrude has to make to us." Estell e Violette implored.

"The delay isn't my fault."Gertrude Angeline said with an attitude of perfect willingness"If all this non sense will sto stop."But here comes Milsred Maxwell on her white charger.Don't she look like the fairy queen thought that's with her how to join us for I know you will all wan want her opinion of the proposition I am going to put to you."

Mildred Maxwell, guardian of the girlscouts bearing a large bouquet of wild flowers that she had just gathered in timber along the bank of the flood rode up to the group of girlscouts seated on the grass a minute later, and as she too dismounted and seated herself all waited expectantly for Gertrude to begin.

Gertrude An gelines girlscouts had pitched camp after the battl battle near a spot called Ferns Hollow which was a deep and richly vegetated ravine or wide gully indeed forming one of a series of scenic convolutions of the surface of the earth and which could have been a reputation as a place of beauty.The girl and boyscouts had pitched their camp on the lower hillside within plain sight of Aronburgs victorious army, a few hundred feet from a boisterous gravel and boulder bed bedded stream known as the Elenor Creek,.Hazel Johanna was one of Gertrudes old time Confederates.During the battle they had had som startling adventures, and though several days had elasped since the action and since then the windup in these even ts, and it seemed that a season of quiet, peaceful camp life was in store for them for a few days, still there were sufficiently j keyed up to the unusual in life to accept sup rises and astonishing climaxes as almost matters of course. But all of these experiences no mater how thrilling, and exciting, or almost fatal had not rendered them restless, and discontented or afraid when as sometimes was the case the events slowed down to the ordinary course of every day life for the child scouts, including three meals a day, eight to thirteen hours of sleep and a program of tramps, long distanced scoutin g on hore horseback, flag drills exercises, and honor endeavors.The girlscouts and boys too were really glad to return to their schedule after the awful battle, and their handbook for instructions as to how they should occupy their time.After all adventure rich enough by reading beyond measures, especially their adventures but very few if any children in reality normally constituted would choose such a melodramatic career like they have unless they were no nervy enough to do so.

All during the very battle these girlscouts had witnessed the exexution of an astonishing plot by a band of Glandelinian skilled spies and therefore had followed the threatened generals through a series of experiences that day relative to the loss of a number of important leters, plans and so o forth which one of the generals held in trust for general Aronburg, and its recovery through the brilliant and energitic en deavors of some of the members of the girlscouts, particarly by Joy St Claire, and Gladys Wanthworth.The chief Glandelinian spy, known as George Slenio, a nephew of some Glandelinian officer in Nyletses army, had been captured by Radcliffe"himself", had escaped, had been captured again by Gertrude, and faced a firingsq uad and clews as to the identy of a number of the rest had been worked out by the military pol police so that later the rest were captured and shared the same fate. The general was very grateful for the part the girlscouts took in the recovery of the lost military securities of which that gen ral was trustee.Joy and Gladys did the big things, assisted and encouraged by the companionship

of Jean and Mildred, but the general thanked them all.Joy St Claire was not present durin g this conversation, for by prearranged purpose she was absent from the camp when Gertrude put to the other girls the proposition made by the Vivian Girl Princesses.The reason it was decided bat for her to remain away while the other girls were considering the plan was tha it was feared her presence might tend to suppress friendly arguments against its acceptance, and that was a possibility which Gertrude wished to avoid.So Gertrude was selected to lau nay the mater before the others becaus e it was neces sary.

"Let's make this a speial matt meeting."suggested Mildred, who had already discussed the proposition with Gertrude and Penrod."What Gertrude has to say interests you as an organization.You'd have to bring the matter up at a general meeting anyway to take action on it and our regular one is two weeks ahead.We can't wait that long if we a re going todo anything on the subject.."

It was a little after ten oclock and the girlscouts had h e been working for the last four hours at various occupations which appeared on their several routine scheules for this part of the day.In fact all their regular academic and handwork study hours for military works were in the mornings and sometimes in the evenings.Just before Gertrude called her staff together they were seated here and there in shaded spots on military benches or on the grass o in the vinicity of the camp, occupied thus; Angeline Jennings and her sister w r were studying the lives of well known persons of other scouts.Julie and Jane Melfort were reading a book on plans and making a study of girlscout symbols. M Mildred Anges and others were studying the girlscout hand sign language. Others were doing differentkinds of work and Gertrude was looking over the minutes of the last meeting,and preparing a new book in which to enter the records of the next meeting or council.Everybody signifying assent to the Guardians suggestion, a meeting was declared, and called to order, the girlscout song was sung, the roll was called, the minutes of the last meeting was read, the reports of the work and committees w ere deferred as were also the recording of honors in the Record book and the decorating of the ocunt, and then the guardian called for "N ew business."This was the occassion for Gertrude . to address the meeting formally on the mater she had in mind.

"N ow"said Gertrude after all the main preliminaries of the military meetin g had been gone through"I'll heging all over again, so that this whole proceeding may be chirely regulated as best as possible.I admit that I did at first go at ir rather spasmodically, but you know we girls and boys are constituted along sentimental l ines, and that is sometimes on e of the handicaps we are up against t in our efforts to develope strong willed characters like those of men.But none of us are built along sentimental l ines at all and we should be if we like to be scouts and do out work well.I've known lots of boys couts and have heard of many more who were just as sentimental as the most sentimental girl.We have among us, a great number of unusual pretty girls, I suppose being compelled to count myself.Therefore in this meeting we must be careful to listen carefully as I'll allow Miss Mildred Maxwell, the prettiest of us all to make the statement of her own did direct.Ifshe will do that we shall be able to get through much more ra rapidly and more satisfactorily.Some ofour councils, and meetings, have been rather sentimental as well as military I must admit which h a has often quite enough aroused the humor of laughin g eyes when we would often as usual comment on the sentimentality of the opposite sex.But this meeting is considered to be quite serious, nothing for fun at all, but which even before I started to aid others in the trip on the raft, the Princesses have suc suggested to me.Mildred you can be the Chiargirl of this meetin g and so you'll do the speechifying first.So it's upto you to impress the girls and boys perfectly."

Mildred acceaccepted this as good advice, and began along the lines suggested."""Well the main facts are these."She said. "We all know what has occured in the past month of June.We have learned so far from the investigations of many Scientiests that the "Supposed eruptions" are not ertvoruptions,that they never were. Emperor vivian too has learned since Violet and her sisters were away that a certain child scout in general Mindernines army, far away to the west, whose works he held in trust is or has has been accomplishing much beyond measure, and therefore Empror Viv's vivian at the advice of Violet, and her sisters had promise promished som t something like a fortune and a good commission to be given to any one who can learn the mystery of these di sasters.You know or most of you do, that I our best friends like Penrod for instance,

you too Angeline Richee, and others have been at Abbieann at the time and had some mirculious escapes.The scientists who have tried to find out things, have used for theirporpose immense sums ofmoney in monthly installments, but could make no report to anybody as towhat the disasterscus explosions really were, though they do stoutly and vigoriously deny that the explosions were "Volcanic disturbances." The name of a chdf scientist is Glen Johns.He is a son of one of our soldiers in the army and a nowphew of an Abbieannian general.When his father ddd in battle the father left most of his property to the young man wh whosedlots of it in his efforts to solve the astounshing mystery.That you know girls is the effort of all scientists to no avail for no one could solve the mystery though they know for sure now no volcanic eruptions occured. Although general Hindernines vivianite girlscout Hazel, assisted no doubt very much by Harriet josn is really on e of those who discovered something amiss about those explosions, and also discovered some papers laying under dirt a mile from the flood east of Abbieann and though they were strangely written codes, and written in foriegn language, English no doubt turn d turned them over to the general who sent them by secret telegraph to Emperor vivian.For several weeks after reports have reached Emperor Vivian that other scientists have not been recieving the best of efforts from or for their work, for Glandelinians in the neighborhoods do their level best tofrustrate them. Girlscods have tried desprately in various ways to find out how much truth there was in these re reports, but was unsuccessful. Little Jane Marie a girlscout whois only ten years of age had tried to make some efforts on it, by being disguised as a dirty little raggamuffin but she too has failed..she had named the leader of some Glandelinian army as responsible for the hinderance of scientists in their info investigations, who have privated and secretly executed other strange ways which they are frustrating them.It is understood that unless special conditions made it necessary none of them will be able to step in and solve the mystery.Violet, and her sisters wants to find out whether these at craters foruty miles north of Abbieann are really of volcanic eruptive origin, or not and whether such conditions exist.If they are not, then they desire also to find out what caused the blasts.At the time of the death of general Granier at the battle of Abbieann early in the war he was in charge of troops near the town.It seems that he did have quite a size of an army, but at his death, someone else had to be in charge.Of course at that time three million men was more than was d needed, but that was the provision that was made by general vivianstine in his efforts to keep foe armies off from Abbieann, and as long as they had possession of the battlefield they were able to accomplish anything. Moreover Violet and her sisters understood that this general desired to hold theposition so well that there could be not the nighe slightest doubts that they could get the best of anything, particularly the enemys plans.

Recently as fast as a new general had been placed in command they had been assassinated app apparently by their own soldiers.This is strange and secret enemds within the lines are at work.This proves we are sure that there is something wrong about those craters at Abbieann which the enemy does not want any one to know about, but violet, and her sisters believed their father had made a mi big mistake in selecting these scientiest scientists who were to take the places of other investigators.If repots are true the glandelinians have been using every effort and every means to prevent any discovery about the craters whatever.Now I am coming to the main point of my statement to you. First I'll put it to a question. "Why does those flood not slack up.?Where's all the water coming from. I was with Violet, and her sisters at the end of June last year and they had talked the mater over with their Mother and Father in a council with them and all his Royal Dukes and Counts and Barons, and all generals called to the assembly, and I was there.Now since that time, before they had been captured and sent off to the foe camps as slaves they had asked me in person to put it up to all of you who wish to try it in this way.! Violet, and her sisters were wondering if any one of us girl or boy scout officers wouldn't like to take a chance for this thrilling advanture and make a tripwith them to the places where the dreadful explosions had occured, and find out ifpossible what caused them. Of cowse it's no use to disguise as enemy scouts, because even they wouldn't be allowed by the Glandelinians in that neighborhood for anything.Yet Violet, and her sisters have an idea that we are a prety cl set of clever girlscouts and the boys too and there is no use to try to argue them out of it.So that much must be agreed to so far as they are concerned.Of course they want to pay all ou expenses and have worked out quite an elaborate plan, or rather they and their father andmother the Empress and Emprer have worked it out togethdr together.Really its vesy dangerous

, extremely dangerous, because the Glandelinians are overcautious about the matter and won't allow any one into the region no matter even if be be strange s l soldiers of their own side."

"Why I suppose they want us to stick out heads into the dragons mouth."exclaimed Violet Jennie's excitedly.

"No don't put it that way."Julista Hanson objected."Whatever they want us todo we must if it is their will.You know they will go too.They won't sent any one where they won't go themselves.But we'll have to act like little girl Sherlock Holmeses in this Juvenile drama of real life.If we discover the clues it'll be a terrible blow to Glandelinia.You know the world looks on us girlscouts and boys too as the "Beginning of Wicked glandelinia's undoing....."

"Very cleverly expressed" Gertrude Angoline."But we must not call our selves detectives as you know its against the girlscout rules and its entirely too cour ase a termto apply to any of my girlscout troop it would be an assault, and I wouldn't stand for it.So leave out anything of remarks of Sherlock Holmes.He's not such a cracker Jack anyhow and we don't want to hear of that Englisyman."

"We can call ourselves just what we are." Jane Melfort suggested.

"Yes that's beter, we could expect something like that from our walking and riding dicionary."said Johannia J- Johnason."But whatever we call ourselves I'm ready to vote are only one condition. All of us cannot go as we'll be needed in the army for other works.Come on with your plan. Gertrude.I'm impatient to hear the rest of it."

Gertrude produced ance an envelope from her middy blouse pocket and drew from it a folded paper, which she unfolded and spread out before her.

"Before I take up the plan outlined by Violet, and her sisters, and their kingly parents"Gertrude said, as she unfolded the slip of paper"I want to explain one ou circumstance that might be o confusing, and fatal to our expedition if left unexplained.As I said, the many scientists who have tried the wor work live in various parts of the country. Violet and her sisters will if possible want to see them first before the expedition will set out.They do not intend to do anything yet either until Jennie h is found,and Angeline is well.Non e of the scientists own up anything particular they have discovered for fear of the reports getting into the enemys possession.The best of the scientists name is James Graham.In these war time, when the cost of living is so high throughout the world, the scientists had refused to co do their work too when it was dangerous without a salery of II,000 dollars a year.But nevertheless these scientists acdo according to reports that have reached Emperor Vivianhave discovered many thin gs of importance which they fear to reval out untill they know to whom to make the reports too.Mr James Graham is a very hard working man at Scientific reser researches, is an head man of it but in this instance is it a case of keeping still or getting a bullet into your body.He is said to be a very reliable man however, and if they that is violet n and her sisters can get a chance to see and speak to this man in person somethingmay be done to help their planned expedition to the Crater region north of Abbieann, and too make it less dangerous.

.N ow the wife of this scientist seems to be a woman of good pat riotic ambio ambition. Among the n ecessaries of the best military equipment you know is for someone of us to secure by bribe, trick or by force a special pass which would enable us to pass the lines of the soldiers at the Abbieann Territory with sufficient means to support it respectably and enable us to carry ourpurpose through successfully.It is said that ta that man Graham has one of these passes.He had secured it through some scheme and if we could loan it from him we need not try to send one of our number on an extra dangerous mission i t into some foe lines to secure such a pass.From here I am afraid the Bengal County, not state is only about a hundred or so miles away from Evangeline St Claire.I think that every one of us have been there at one time or another before the war.But Abbieann city I think is about three hundred miles from here.What Violet, and her sisters wants us to do is to make with them a trip first to Four Twin Lakes, pitch our tents and first to hide all our moves start what is known by American girlscouts, as a "Camp fire Program just as if we were there to punt in a whole season of recreation and honor work, than our real purpose.If we need to get a pass from the enemy they'll send some of the Gemini to secure one.But

men nowwhile they want us first who do not know the places to become acquainted with the Abbiesnnian region north of Abbiesnn, cultivate a intimacy with all landscapes and so forth, if you please ,and be able to report back to them just what conditions we first find in the disaster zone, just how the craters are, and formed, their appearance size, depth and so forth, and whether or not the wreckage of earth is of any volcanic material or not.Then we are to go to work to strive for clues as to the identifications of the horror, for surely if it is an enemy made disaster, some clues surely have been left behind.We'll even have Masses said for our success, and pay any price for all the Masses and special Novenas possiv possible.The discovery is the safty of the cause.If we cannot cann ot find means to prove Glandelinia's guilt, we cannot do what emperor yivian desires.I have therefore given you in detail I think what is out lined lin ed on this pap er I hold in my hand.I don't think I have left out anything, except the location of the Twenty nin e explosion craters, and these we do not know of yet.But there are no locations at all on the paper, no id indications where to find them, only it says northwest of Abbiesnn, about fourry seven miles the farthest one.The reason for this is I supposethat it was thought best by the maker of this paper not to disclose as yet the idonty of that region for the ifo information of any other personsinto whose hands it might fall accidentally, if it should be lost by us.The places however ought to be indicated thus; though its in code form and written in English so that no one but I , Evans and violet and her sisters can read it.Walter Starring too can read English.A 'A' stands for the leargest explosion crater, which is farthest from the city of Abbiesnn,Bo stands for the next largerst, C stands for the double craters, D stands for a scoe of smaller ones almost close together and almost joining , E for the one closest to Abbiesnn, and F for a crater inside of extreme Northern Abbiesnn itself..There you have the whole proposition.What do you want to do with it? Violet, and her sisters I neglected to mention, wants to lead the expdition, pay all our and their expenses, and hired powerful members of the Gemini and send soldiers to helptake off our hands all the labor of moving our camp.Walter Starr ing, is to go off first."

Replies were not slow coming however. Nearly every one of the girl and boyscouts had something to say as indicated by the eager and excited attitudes of all, and request s from several to be recognized by the main Guardian Angelinians Riches who was in the "Chair".Jane Melfort was the first called upon .

"I don't agree with the proposition, even though its simply great." the latter declared with vim."Though its delightfully romantic, and sounds like a story with a plot, and would make a great number of heroines out of us if we are successful in our mission, yet it seems a most extremely dangerous undertaking.But as it is our duty, and for the sake of our country, and though it may cause us all to be aft afterwards probably walking the golden streets of heaven we must accomply with it. So I cannot say no ,though I would desire so very much."

"I want to warn all of you against one grave danger."Gertrude interposed at this point."The natural thing for you to do at the start after hearing this lengthy indictment against glandelinia concerning Abbiesnn is to conclude that we are not asked by Violet and her sisters to do anything they wouldn't do themselves.They are to lead us, we cannot start until they do.The Glandelinian armies in that locality if even far away are a bad lot and we can set out to prove it by our fatal expedition if we are not careful.Glandelinian armies in that neighborhood, are under some generals, generals known as the Tamerline Brothers, one fierce one under Phellinia Tamerline and so forth, and these are as fierce as any big armies of the most blood thirsty criminals ever set on the face of the earth.Not I admit that that is my feeling in this matter but I also know that there is a possibility of disaster in the undertaking if we do not do a proper thing. General Aronburg is to move with us, tward Abbiesn Abbiesnn for our protection, and we'll change our raft into a sort of big barge of house boat while we and the general will use as our water headquarters, and it'll be a floating battery bed besides.All the wooden parts will be laid over with st el and iron to prevent damage as far as possible by enemy shellfire.But before the expdition starts, Violet and her sisters will interview James Graham for we know how many enemies there are who are always tryin g to injure them.So if we

take up the proposition of Violet and her sisters you and I and all others must keep this possibility in mind for unless you do, you might not only blunder the whole expdition to our to total destruction but do the Vivian Girl Princesses a great injustice/ and emperor ,ivian as well, and ruin the nations cause in the eyes of the world.No matter how dangerous the expedition is, all of us must come back to tell the tale.It would be a pity to meet with disaster after we strive to find out whether the explow explosions were enemy made or accidental.Glandelinia is not looked upon as a real unscrupulous nation you know, but a country which is Possessed"and therefore wicked as she is she is extremely dangerous, and we must be careful.We must wait untill Violet, and her sisters sets the plans.They'll notify us soon as they remain Jennie, and we'll have to one down to the army then to recieve the plans.But I must remind you girls and boys, only those who have been long in the service will be a accepted into the proposition, and all of you here are.Poor Jack won't be able I'm afraid, because it'll be months before hi his leg heals, but he'll be left in the company of little Jean and Jannie.Jeans wound though not severe, it is taking its rottenest time to heal up, and she told me she sure dos suffer, and has to sit up in a chair at night as if she does lay down she cannot get up, and she doesn't want to remain in bed."

The discussion was continued for nearly three hours, the writt n written instructions in Gertrudes p as possession we read aloud and then a vote was taken. It was unanimou s, in favor of performing the task proposed by Violet, and her sisters.

"Why couldn't this expedition be arranged so that we girlscouts and boys too could win some good honors out of it?"Ruth Mic-Whirther in qui red after the details of the plans of the Princesses had been discussed thou thoroughly and the vote had been taken."We deserve honors as it'll be the most hazardous expedition yet on record. "

"That's a good succe suggestion."said Gertrude Angeline."What kind of hon ors however would you propse ruth?"

.The latter was silent for some minutes.She was going over in her mind the lists of girlscouts home graft, health, craft, camp craft, battlescout craft, hand craft, mercy craft, nature lore military and patriotism honors provided by for by the military organizations but none of them seemed to fit very well with the program of this proposed secret, and dangerous investigation.

"I can't think of any!"she said at last."There aren't any are there?"

"No there are not "Angeline Riches replied."But anyhow now is the real time for the exercise of a little in genuity.Who speaks first with a real good idea..??"

"I have one"Announced Francis Ethels eagerly.

"Well what is it Francis!"Angeline Riches inquired.

"How about local hon ors."vreplied the girlscout who had the first, idea."Each girlscout column is aurthorized to create local hohors and aa aware special beads and other emblems to those who make the requir ments."

"Under what clear circumstance is such a proceeding required!"Was Angeline Riche as next question.

"Why when it is thereby found that local conditions call for the awarding of honors not provided for in the slet elective list."

"Yes, but do such honors count for anything in the q alification for higher rank?"

"They do not "Francis answered like a pupil who had learned her lesson very well and felt no hesitancy in making her recitation.

"What kind of hon or thon when you confoer on me if I exhibited great skill in spying on Glandelin ian aurthorities!"asked Helen Anderson in her usual cool and deliberate manner.

A priblematical smile l it up the faces of a number of the girl and boy scout officers who caught the singificance of this suggestion.Both Gertrude and Richee smiled too, but no so problematically.

"You m mean to point out the incongruity of honor s and spies I presume."Angeline Riches intrepeted, addressing Helen.

"N ot very seriously."The latter replied with an expression of fry humor. "I couldn't resist the temptation to ask the question, and moreover it occured to me that a little discussion on the subject of honors and girl scout spies might help to complete our study of the or problon before us.We are of course usally spies, but I do not think this Abbiesnn problem wil need spying."

"It sure will, and plenty of it."Put in Mildred."We could not learn anything oth rw se otherwise."

"Do you mean that we are going to be shrewd spies."Violet turner Turner questioned."That we will spy around the Abbiesnn region?"

"Why of course we are Helen Anderson replied with a half twinkle in her eyes."All girlsd girl and boyscouts are spies you know."

"I don 't like the idea of spying round such an in formallocality, and would rather call it something else."said Marie Stanck."first none one calls us the children of the Gemini, and then some one calls us professional Christian Spies.What next."Ugh.."

"Why don't you like to spy on the glandelinian armies?"asked Rickson Lucile.

"Well Marie answered with some hest hesitation "You know there are scores of thousands ofour christian sie spies in this country trying to help out countrys cause, and for what kind of work they have to do I don don't like to be classed with them."For one I wish Penrod had remained with us, and didn't need to go off with Violet and her sisters."

"That's patriotic."said Helen, the twinkle in her eye becoming more brighter."But you must remember that there are spies, and spies, professional, and so forth, military detectives, sluaths, and so on, and among the enemy there are enlisted spies. All of our military Gemini are spies in their attempts to crush all purposes of the enemy armies.You know to spy on the enemy is as simple as a mother when she watches her little tot in some foriegn countrysteaking into the pantry to poke his fists into the jam.That is what Violet, and her sisters suspects is taking place now.In the investigations of scientists around Abbiesnn the Glandelinian officials have got their fists into the jam.We must go and peak peak through the pantry door."

"Oh well if you put it that way, it'll be lots of fun even if it is dangerous."Marie exclaimed most eagerly."I'd just like to catch them, with their fists-----all------all smeared." She brought the last word out so ex ecstatically that everybody laughed.

"I'm afraid you have fallen into the pit that I warned you against." Gertrude said addressing Marie Stanck."You mustn't start out eagerly to prove the dissasters were made of the enemy purposes under suspicion guilty, untill we are sure.Otherwise we would not do as we show our character of, so good."

"Then we must drive out of our minds the pictures of the fists smeared with ja m."deplored Marie with a playful pout.

"I fear that you'll have to."was the smiling consolation of the Guardian Angeline Richee.

"Very well I'm a good girlscout, and a good girl soldier."said Marie straightening up as if ready to"shoulder arms"."I won 't imagine any jam untill I see it, but oh how I'l I'd like to to see Glandelinia's fist into it just the same."

""Here comes Angeline Jennings/"Cried Jane, and everybody looked in the direction indicated.Angeline Jennings had taken advantage of the occassion to go first to general Aronburgs headquarters to see how he was getting on since he had been wounded, and thence to the army Red Cross headquarters for a new supply of bandages.As she emerged down the company street through a patch of timber and continued along the edge of the woods tward the site of the camp the assembled girlsnd boyscout officers could see that she carried a good sized bundle under one arm.

"She's got some more bandages."said Jane, who had proved herself often to be as capable as any Red Cross Nurse.Although the business of the meeting was finished, by tacit agreement those present decided not to adjourn untill Angeline arived and recieved official notice of what had been done.

"I'm delighted with yo your decision."Angeline said eagerly."And do you know we are going to have some thrilling adventure, when we start.So after starring will go first, and alone.I've been talking the matter overwith general Aronburg and he had told me a lot of very interesting things at first do you not to go."

things but when do you want to go.?"

"We can not decide that yet untill Violet, and her sisters are back in campwith their sister Jenn ie."Gertrude Angeline replied."When they are back we can do almost at any time."

"Let's go at once when we recieve word from them."Proposed Marie Stanck."We haven't anything to keep us here, and we can come back as soon as---as we find the jam in glandelinia's fist."

"Nothing doing."said Angeline richee.I'"I'm the head of the whole force here and we must wait untill they tell us."

This figure of speech called for an explanation for Angelines benefit. Then Mildred Maxwel moved that al those who were going place themselves at Angelin e Richees service to leave for Six Twin Lakes first as soon as the Vivien girls made the preparations, and that general Aronburgs army must follow the expedition to cover it, and this motion was carried unanimously.

"I move that our main superior Angeline richee be appointed a Committee of one to notify violet and her sisters through Jenn ie Turner of our action and get in structions from them for our n ext move, and vote too that Miss John Jenn ie Turner and Radcliffe must accompany us, and Penrod too."said Violet Jensin.

"Second the mtion."Said Mildred Maxwell.

"Question."Shouted Mary Stanck.

"Those in favor say aye."said Angelinie Aronburg.

"A hearty of chorus of "Ayes" was the reamy response from all.

"Contrary ,min ded, no.W

Silen ce.

"The ayes have it.

The meeting adjourned.

At nine oclock that evening a train of thirty three wagons pulled into the camp of general Aronburgs ar y, and along with it came an immense new army of Abbiesnnsne.It was a dark evening, the skies refused to shine because of the thick smoke in the sky, and it was oppressively warm.The Girlscouts all went out to meet the incoming wagon train as is l always their custom.n

No one had been prepared for this wagon train and the newly arived force because it was unexpected.Gertrude Angeline at hearing i of its arival had engaged two soldiers to go out first and direct the tw train in .Then Gertrude.accompanied the girl and boyscouts, all to meet the train with the hope to see to whom the new army belonged, and as it was three days since the departure of violet, and her sisters to learnif this army commander knew anything about it.However the leaders of the army were all strangers though good.There were few other officers in charge of the wagons when the girlscouts came up to greet its arival!One old officer obligingly moved fowrd from a the wagon seat in front he havinf done the driving of one of the horse teams.Before starting for the train, Angeline richee had called her big flock of girl and boy spies together and gave them a short lecture.

"Now all you girls and boys"she said"I have heard vague news of the situation at general vivians, and though no instructions have yet come from Violet, and her sisters, Jenn ie.is back,with them, though in a sad sick condition, an and Angelin e givian has recovered sufficiently to recieve them when they came.Therefore any moment many of us are about to embark on an adventure that has in it elements whdh willput all of us who go into more severe tests than even sain ts of old have gone through.Abbiesnn is in a very dangerous locality, fourteen Glandelinian armies of the most savage kind are near that spot, and they won't let even glandelinian girlscouts to go n ear the places just fo the strict purpose to keep out christian spies who might disguise as they.As soon as the news comes from the Princesses, these tests will beginnright away.And Gertrude as you are equls equal to me in rank perhaps the first will be a test of your ability. Everyon e of us too therefore must hold our tongues, say nothing to any one.That's prety hard fo a large bevy of girls who like to talk better th nthan anything else , isn't it?"

"Doyou really mean to accuse us ofliking to talk beter than anything else. "Inquired Gertrude Angeline, flushing pretily.

"I didn't say so di did I."was the Guardians answering query.

"Not exactly.But you mentioned it didn't you."?

"I refused to be pined pinned down to an answer."Replied Angeline Richee smiling enigmatically.."I suspect that if I leave you something to guess about Gertrude especially on that subject it may sink in deeper.Now can any of you surmise what specifically I am driving at?"

Nobody seemed able to give an answer, and G Angeline Richee con tinued,

"Don 't talk to any body no matter who it is about our mission fist to Six Twin Lake, except to those who know of it, and the Vivian Girls.I'll pass a penalty severe on those who do.Don't even drop remarks now and then, or here and there there that may be overheard and make strangers listen formore.You know we cannot tell in such a war whether we are listened to by friends or enemies, for many enemies are even in secret within the christian lines and we cannot drive them out, or even find them.For

instance on our trip which will be following general Aronburgs army, in hispurpose to join with general ,vivians, forgo gorget forget that you are on on anything except a mere sight seeing and pleamure trip or a strange Camp wire Excursion, and you'll have to all done civilian girl and boys clothing so we won't even look like girlscouts, and w wear our hair braided to look the part.Also be absolutely certain that none of you don't drop any even the slightest remarks that might arouse any bodys curiousity or suspicion.It might you know get to the very Glandelinian armies far nat of Abbieann and we must in all cases keep them ignorant con cerning our moves and motives.Even if it is necessary to do so, we must pretend to be sinful children so fool the enemy more.Sinful children the enemy do never disturb , you understand."!

"I see you sure are bound to make us more secret spies than ever."said Marie Stanck pertly."What do you think of it Mary Stanck!"

"WEll I'm go going toagreewith her.I'm going tostart out with the determination of pulling an old hat down over my eyes ,hiding in every shadow I see and peek around every corner I can get to.OH I'm going to be some military sluth believe me.And I'm going to make myself look dity, and dress like a a dirty urchin."

"What will you say when you catch some body with jam on his fin gers!" Jane Melfort inquired."

"I'll suddenly appear f before the Glandelinian catt and shout"Halt you are my prisoner.Throw up your jammed hands or I'll jam you with lead from my pistol."

"Yes."said Mildred."But I thought we don't give quarter to the enemy whom we see.You know they don't give quarter to christian children."

After the laugh that greeted this response subsided,, Angelin e Richee closed her lecture thus;;;;"I think you all will s appreciate the importance now of doing your best now of keeping your thoughts to yourselves except when we are in confered confernece.I an am glad to see you have alot of fun over this subject but don't let your gay spirits, en or happy notions caused you to permit any unguarded remarks to escape. Because this expedition will be a most "picklish business,"and we don't like that kind of trickling."

When meeting the wagon train, they conducted it into the army lines and then went back to their own tents got out their very knitting and soon their very needles were plplying merrily away on sleeveless army shirts, sweaters, socks, girlscout hats and wristlets for the other soldiers at fr the front timing their work by their wrist watches for patriotism honors.True to their resolve following Angeline richees warning lecture they determined to keep the subject of their mission out of their conversation,and no reference to it would be n made during the entde three hundred and fifty mile journey.The wagon train which had entered the lines was just belonging to a portion of the other section of general Aronburgs army.Just later a boyscout came ridingup and called out"Telegram for Angelinia Aronboig."

The later arose, and recieved the message, signed the receipt blank and tore open the envelope. Imagine her aston ishment as she read the following;

"Be careful Gertrude and warn your scouts. The Two Glandelinian Professional Mutt and Jeff Spies are within general Aronbu g Aronburgs camp.Do not need to describe them as you know them well.But they are in disguise this time as Abbieannian generals.Watch out for them.Letter follows telegram. Jennie vivian is safe wityi within our lines but she is ill from her exig experi nces with August nis St glaire but will recover shortly.

F om Emperor vivian."

Gertrude Angeline passed the telegram around among all the girl and boyscout leaders writing the following explanation at the foot of the message;

"THE TWO PROFESSION A SPILRS SPIES ARE WELL KNOWN BY MR PENROD,AND JENNIE TURNER/.THEY REPRESENT THE SCHEMING INTERNATIONAL MEN,WHO ONCE ATTEMPTED TO FORCE INFORMATION OF OUT OF PENROD, BY LOCKING HIM IN A DEN OF SNAKES LEAVE THIS MATTER TO ME AND DON'T TALK ABOUT IT UNTILL WE REACH SIX TWIN LAKES...."

N othing further was said about the incident during the rest of the e ening and night before retirment as requested by Gertrude, though she gave secret advice to general Aronburg about the matter in the hopes of having the two apprehended or driven out of the camps. The girls rested or ini knitted or chatted, the boys played at thour customary games, and others read books, and news papers, or wrote post cards, or army letters to friends in other parts of the army.But although there was not a word of conversation, among any of the girl or boyscouts relative to their intendedmission, or about the two Professionals named in emperor Vivians telegram yet the subject was not absent from their minds, and they see e sc secretly kept a good lookout for them.They know they were being shadowed by these two Professionals, who either looked naturally like Mutt and Jeff or used that makeup as a disguise.No other construction could be put upon the telegram.And how could Empr Emperor Vivian guess it.And for what purpose were these Mutt And Jeff spies following or shadowing them.?what did the unscrupulous spies have in kind to do.Of course most of the girls and boys did not know them, but the descriptions of Mutt And Jeff put them uneasy, for though those characters in Funn y papers were all right, and greatly comical, there was something extremely dangerous in these two apprent or real ones.They wondered would they make trouble for them in a way that would either place them in an embrassing position, or do things to cause loss of life and hinderance of their plans!They decided if they met any one of that appearance they were going to let go with pistols on fust sight, for many of these girls and boys had had experiences before which were likely to make them apprehensive of almost anything under such circumstances as these. Therefore warned of the presences of these two Professional Sluths that violet, and her sisters and the Emperor hand under suspicion, the girlscouts were constantly on the alert for some evidence of his or their interest in them and their movements. One thing Jean Saunders did, and that was to secure a Daily News Paper sent over recently from Chicago, take out the Mutt and Jeff Funnies, and study the characters of the two funny men, and trace them out on seperate pieces of paper in artistic form(all the girlscouts were good at a rtistid work, and passed them around to each boy and girl scout who said they had never seen them before.And they were rewarded to this extent, In the course of the evening two persons a tall and short man passed by with a calvacade of officers on horseback, and notone of the girlscouts failed to observe the fact that in personal and absolutely natural appearance and not in disguise they answered strikingly, in size and features the description of Mutt and Jeff in the Funn ies, but with the comical expression of face left out.But they had the likeness nevertheless. There was however lacking Mutts funny n ose, his nose was naturdl, and the little man was beardless but looked like Jeff nevertheless.The littler man however was squint eyed and in the coolest and most nonchallent manner he dismounted, told the other officers he was remaining here for the presn present to take something out of his boot and took a seat on a long a short distance in front of the group of knitting girlscouts, took off his book shook it while holding it upside down and pretened to be oblivious to all else about him. Ten minutes later he arose remoun ted his hose and went off with the rest of the officers.Another ten minutes elasped, and he and his companion did not reappear..Then Angeline Richee, Mary Stanck, Jane Melfort, and also Mildred Maxwell, and Jeans bigger sister put away their knitting and announced that they were going out horseback riding before taps sounded.They did not communicate to each other their real purpose of making this move but n neither had any doubt as to what was going on in the minds of the other.Mr Mary Stanck looked at her companions with a little squint of intelligence, and Jean said as she arose from her ch air, as she looked at her revolver;;

"I think I'll go too for a change."

"But this is what she interpolated to her self;

"They're goin g back there to spy, or try to shoot the two Professionals, and I think I'll go and do som of it two."

"They found the two Professionals in general Aronburgs headquarters apparently asleep in a chair. Angeline richee who entered first,; declared afterwards she was posiv positive she saw them cl ose their eyes like a flash and lapse into an appearance of drowsiness, but if she was not in error their subsequent manner were a very clever simulation of midday slumber. Three or five time even in the course of the next two hours they saw either one or the other shift his position, and half open his eyes, but but droop droop back quickly into the most comfortable appearance of

sound sleeppp.The girlscouts were positively certain, that the two were only making off but they did not communicate their con i conviction to each other by look or suggestion of any kind, and one of them pretended to have her face buried in a magazine.Th y played their part well, and it was quite possible that the two Professionals peeking through their eye winkers were considerably puzzled by their manner.He had no reason to believe that they might be known by the girlscouts by name or reputation, much less by personal appearance, and though they thought they came out of curiousity by the expected fact they might have seen the Mutt and Jeff funn ies. Yet it was a game of spy on both sides during most of the evening with but little mystifying results.Taps soon sounded and even then the girls had discovered no positive evidence as to the purpose of these two fellows, and the men as they left the building could not confidently say th to themselves, that they had detected any suggestion of interest on their part because of their pr presence in the camp.Literally they were the there to trace Penrod but Penrod was at general ..ivians.At the sound of taps the girlscout officers all of them assigned themselves to their own proper rooms some on the first and second floors.They didn't go to the Mess hall to eat this time but had their supper in the building, and then proceeded at once to have a nights rest.And stillno words were exchanged among them relative to any opurpose of their visit or the mys terious Mutt And Jeff strangers concerning whom all of them felt an irrestible curiousity and not a little apprehension .Gertrude Angeline always is occupied a room wih with Angeline richee.After making a careful survey of the floors and all the rooms they entered their own ap astments and closed and locked the doors and placed extra guards on duty with stri t strict orders not to let no one in n no matter even what officer they be.Marie Stanck, and Jane Melfortt occupied the room immediately south of Gertrudes but to none of them had the room immediately not north been occupied. These rooms had always been vacant.

"I wonder if the next room north ever is to be occupied."Gertrude remarked as she took of her hat and hung it up on a shelf in the closet.

"Some one is entering n ow."said Angeline richee in a whisper lifting her hand with a warnin g for lowed tone conversation.....

The exchange of a fd few indistinct words between two persons could be heard,;;;,,,,;then one of them left, slowly ad and without making any noise, and the other was heard moving about in the room.

"That's one of the guards who has just brought an officer up"Gertrude remarked.

"And I'm going to find out who it is."A Angeline richee declared in a low tone, turning tward the doooor..

"I'll go with you "said Gertrude, and together they went down to the lower room where all officers have to register themselves.They sought the register at once and began looking over the list of all officers who had arived.Presn presently Angeline richee pointed with her finger the following registration?Francis Hansonis Pedro. Christie Nero Fania. .Officers room # 39.

Gertrude and Angeline occupied room 38.

"Anything you wish girls?"asked the officer in charge who saluted them kn o knowing their rank..

"Yes."Answered An gelinne Richee."We want another room."

"I'll give you single rooms if that one is not satisfa ctory. "was the reply."All the double rooms and others are filled with officers."

"Isn't 39 a three double room."Gertrude inquired.

"Yes,but its occupied.I just sent two new Abbiesnnian officers up there."

"Excuse the question, "Angeline Richee said curiously"But why did you put one person in a double room there, and another person in the double room close to mine when they were the only double rooms in the building and there were still many vacant single rooms in this big house."

The officer smiled pleasantly as if the question was the most simple one in the world toanswer.

"Because each man insisted on having it."was the mans startling reply,"But they registered their names right.I don't see no mistake in it."

Without a word of comment, relative to this remarkable and strange information, Angeline richee, and Gertrude turned and started back upstairs while the man in charge of the registeri re gistration looked at them as he wondered what was the matter .....

In the hall at the upper landing, Angeline whisprod thus in Gertrudes ear;

"Sh-h-h-h.Don't say a word or a committ a single act that could arouse suspicion.He is probablylistening or looking, or both, and the other might be shadowing us secretly.They probably seperated and went each to occupy double rooms to throw us off the guard. just pretend pretend to forget this subject and talk about the new girlscout blouse you are making, or something like that.Don't gush either, or he may suspect your motio motive.We either want to throw them both off the track, or capture them of possible."

But Gertrude preferred to say nothing, for she was tired,, and made haste to get into bed for it was after"taps". It was not long before the subject of thep their plans and problems and even troubles and visions of glandelinian spies, and"jam stained fists,"battles and all unspeakable thrills and horrors were lost inthe lethe of dreamland.

As the morning revellie was sounded the girlscouts were awake and already dressed, and Gertrude Angelin e was on her way to the dinning room in the generals headquarters when they found most of the girlscouts ahead of them.The others presently put in their appearance, then grace was said by all in chorus and all sat down to eat.A moment later the two Profr Professional spies entered the room and took a seat n ear the table occupied by Angeline richee and Gertrude Angeline.The smaller man seemed to have the say,for whatever he told the t taller man to do he did.The smaller man looked about him in a half w.vac n vacant incon sequentail way and then became to read a news paer he had taken up.He then told the waiter what he wished to have for himself and his companion.The girlscouts paid no attention to them apprently during the breakfast, and the later did not seem to pay the slightest attention to them.Gertrude out of the corner of her eye looked at them, and once she noticed they slyly glanced in her direction, and more than anyone else.After the meal Angeline richee called all the girlscouts together and sugges e suggested that they talk a short walk or hike.Then she dismissed them to prepare. Twenty minutes later they reassembled clad in their field uniforms, brown rounded sailor hats, and ki hiking shoes, andthe walk was begun along a path that led down a large wooded hill behind the headquarters but within the heart of the vast army camp, and tward the nearest approachof the flood waters.However it was not intended for walk ing exercise and fresh air that this "hike"was taken but for the full opportun ity to hold a conference where therewas no chance of it being overhead overheard.They picked a rocky knoll near the flood, shaded by a border of oak and butternut trees, and sat down close together on a long fallen log in order that they might cary on a conversation in subdued t- tones.

"Now "said Angeline richee"We'll begin to form our plans."You all realize that in our work to perform I think that we have an obstacle to work against that we did not reckon on, or even dream of when we first rec e recieved our plans from Violet, and her sisters.But however that need not surpr ise us.In fact as I think maters over it would have been more than surprising if something of the kind had n ot occured.I don't known those men well, because it's the first time I've ever seen them, but Gertrude does known them well.She says these two Professional spies, are not Glandelinians, but are working for the glandelinian Government on a high pay of Thirteen thousand dollars for every successful spying work they succed succeed in making.Therefoe I believe these two Professionals, one who is a Span Spainard, and the other a Dago are here to block our plans.I wouldn't call him a dago if he was not an enemy but since he is I'll call him that.If it is true that they are here to frustrate ourplans it will be in a sense an advantage to us as Gertrude says."

"Why?"Jean Saunders in quired.

"I do not like the dea of answerin g questions of that kind Jean without giving you girlscout officers an opportunity to answer them."The Guardian girlscout leader returned."Now who can tell me positely why it is or will be an advantage to us to be followed by two secret spies in the employ of the glandelinian Government to shadow us to see whether we inten to investigate the disaster o at Abbiesnn or not."

"I think I can answer it corectly."Jean said quickly observin g that two or three of the other girls seemed to have something to say."Let me

speak first. I asked the fool ish question, and want a chance to redeem myself."

"I wouldn 't call it foolish by any means"Was Angelines reassuring reply."It was to me a very natural question and one that comparatively few grown ups even would be able to answer without considerable study. And yet it is simple after you once get it. But goahead and redeem yourself."

"The fact that these two Professionals have been put on our trail to watch us is is prety good evidence that something wrong is going on." said Jean."You warned us not to be too sure how v however that Glandelinin might be guilty of the explosions untill we see the "jam "on her fist. But we can work more confidentially if we are reasoniably certain that there is something towork for. If these Mutt And Jeff spies is really watching us, and not looking for Penrod and even is shadowing us secretly then we may be reasonably certain that Emprer Vivian was right in his suspicions about the way the supposed "Eruptions" may have occured, are we not?"

"That is very good Jean."Angeline Richee said enthusiastically."Many older people and grownups could not s have stated the situation as clearly as clearly as you have stated it. Yes I think I may say I am almost glad that we are being watched by two spies. But of course if they try to do something, they'll forefit their lives for we'll give no show. But I didn't call you girls out here to have a long talk as we would not have the time, and besides there isn't really much to be said right n ow. F r Fist I wanted all of you to understand most clearly that we were being shadowed and for whatpurpose. These two Spies have convinced themselves of our being on some secret mission, but they both convicted themselves when one ofthem asked for the double room next to the one occupied by me and Gertrude. They think they are able to maintain an appearance of utter disinterest in us, and throw us off our guard. But I didn't like the way the smaller one always kept his eye on Gertrude. But nevertheless he overdone the thing. And the larger one who is "Mutt" makes too big an effort to appear unconscious of our presence. It doesn't jibe at all with the expression of decided interest I have caught on his face on two or three occassions. And I flatter myself greatly that I successfully concealed my interest in his interest in us. Now there are two thin gs I want to say to all of you, and we willreturn. Fist do your best every one of you to throw the two Professional spies off the track ifpossible if possible by affectin g the most innocent disinterest in him and his bigger companion as of no more importance to us than the most obscure tourist on earth. We can act as if they don't exist. But keep your eyes open nevertheless and if he makes any kind of move, t ward any one of you don't hesitate to shoot. They are dangerous men and will attack us if they see the opportunity. And just mak e make yourself think that they are of no consequence and act accordingly without putting any effort to do so. This The best way to effect this is to forget all about our intent intended mission when they are around.

"Sec second we must find out where the right part of the country is and then determine where we want to locate our camp---somewhere in the vinicity of Abbiesnn of course. The best thing we can do is have some one of us, who may be able to write and speak a little English converse to the Princesses in English as they know and read it very well."

"Why not let me go out on a scouting expedition to find out how far general vivians army is from here."Jane Melfort requested.

"And m let me go with her begged Jean Saunders. We can dress as dirty civilians you know. Only, befor e we go I must go to the dressing station to have my shoulder cleaned and redressed."

"All right"Angeline nichee assented.

"When do you think it is proper."

"I do not know, but I'll commission you two to act as professional spies but neverty n evertheless don't you two as yet approach the borders of the enemys army and try to make any map of the works now. That is our keeping with only other purposes and not with ourmission. But whatever you do don't get caught. Keep your heads, don't do anything foolish or spasmodic, and keep this thing well in min d that it is far better for you to come back empty handed than to make any loss on our side, or to make even the enemy spies suspicious of anh anh any ulterior motive on your party party."

"No girls, and boys too"said Angeline nichee addressing Gertrude and others especially the ones who wanted to go out on the scouting tour"but we hear with yourpln plan is, if you have any. If you tell me you haven't any we must get busy and work one out for non e of you must start such an in terprize without having some idea as to how you should go about it. There are many enemy patrols anywhere outsideour own christian lines, and therefoe I willassume that a suggestion must have come to you as to how best to get the first and best information we want, or you would not have volunteered.."

"Can 't we try and work out some sort of an honorplan as we decided upon our dutues duties and how we are to perform them!"Gertrude Inquired.

"Certainly "Replied Angelin Richee."I was going tosuggest that very thing."What auld you propose , Gertrude?"

"Well something like this."The latter replied."That each of us be assigned to some spcific duty to perform in the dangerous work before it and that we would be awarded som sort of honors for performing those duties intelligently, and of ourse successfully."."....."

"Very well.... I suppose this work, you and Jean have elected may count tward the winning of a commission for each of you. But what will you do af ter you have finished this task which may consume quite a number of hours?"

"Why not make them a permanent squad of Commissionary scouts to go out and gather adfanadvanced information at any time before we can determined what do you."Marie Stanck suggested."

"That's a god idea at that I believe""" Angeline Richee replied. But "But it will have to come up at a general meeting not only of us girlscout officers, but the generals as well in order that honors may be aware awarded regularly. Meanwhile I will appoint you two girlscouts as leading scouts of the whole Commission and this can be confirmed at the next meeting. We will also makeupthe condition on which honors will be awarded. But how willyou go about to get the information we now need. You plan to find out the nearness of general vivians army. You may meet with enemy scout patrols, and w we not do not need fear those under Myletze half so much as those under any of the Manlevs!"

"First I would look in the general Coun try map to find out at what proper location Evangelin e St claire is, and the distance."Gertrude replied.

"Yes, that is perhaps the best move to make fist first. But the chances are you may get nothing there. Can you tell us all why?"

"Because both frost fins, and floods, and enemy patrols also cut us off from getting there without running a voc volume full of unspeakable dangers." Jean volunterred.

"Exactly."The girlscout Guardian replied in agreement."Well if the map fails to gi ve you information what would you do n ext. ?"

"Get into communication, either with Vivoet, and her sisters, or with Jennie Turner ."

"Fine." Angeline exclaimed."What then ?"

"If we can't use a telegraph, we'll use a telephoje telephone for they have them, and we could get you Gertrude who can speak English to talk over the phone in english to any of the Princesses. Jean continued"And there would n o doubt be some sort of address for them in the phone book."

"Yes.."

"And that would give us sa sort of guide for beginning our search, for what I plan is that to cary our work successfully through general Vivians army must join Aronburgs. We wouldn't have to use the names of the Princesses we are looking for. We know the signals between each other, and you could use them over the phone."

"That is excellent"Angeline Richee exclaimed enthusiastically. "If you two chief scouts use your heads as cleverly as that all th the time you ought to get alon g finein your work..But go on .What next would you do.!?!?""

"Go and find out how far off general Vivians army is situated. That sure is not hard to do. Then we could look over the lay of the land to see if there were a good place near by for us to goahead and signal to the army. We can attract some ones attention."

"Yes,"put in Gertrude "and if we found a f good place near by to do the sign alling without being observed by any enemy scout patrols-we would begin the real work that we came here todo by going forth to try and discover

what caused the "Eruptions"near Abbieann."

"Fine again" Angelin e Richee said."I couldn8'T do better mself, maybe not as well.I did think of going with you on that expdition but I guess I'll leave it all to you.Let's go back to the generals headquarters now, and while you two scouts are gon e scouting, the rest of us will find something to give us entertainmen t as we girl and boyscouts all of us have leisure hours all day.Maybe we'll take a horseback ride through the camp."

"They started back at on ce and were soon at the generals headquarters.Gertrude and Jean decided they would not even look for thetele po hephone number of the Vivian girls at general vivians but would go to a army military telephone station for this information.

The other girlscouts waited on the headquarters portion while the two were away on this mission of looking up the telephone number.Gertrude and Jean were gone about twenty minutes and returned with a supply of picture post cards to mail to their friends in the army.On a piece of paper Gertrude had written both in Abbieann, and English the address of the general ,ivians headquarters at Evangeline St claire,and of the location and telephone number of the Vivian Girls an d she sho showed it to Angelin e Richese. Here is what the later read;

"General ,ivians Headquarters.I045, Algrove Avenue .Evangeline St Claire.Tephone Number I000 Gr acie. Vivian girls.Same address and telephon e number."

"That is about one hundred and threese miles from here."Jean said."We thought"we hire or secure a motor motor boat and go there as far as we dare at least."

"Do"said Angelin e Richee approvingly."And we'll also take a few motorboats and ri e up that way too on the flood if we can secure them. WE'll make it a double inspection, part by land, and part by water.We'll meet you at some spot where you may mark out if there is one, and we'll all go back together.N ow you Gertrude and Jean wait here while I go and find some mor motorboat soldier men and make arran gements with him."

"I'll go with you"said Mildred Maxwell."

"The girlscout Guardian, and Mildred, hastened down tward the main military boat landing while the girl and boyscouts, may the whole army soon knowing of the proposed trip waited eagerly for a successful report of this part of the proposed program.

Angelin e Richee, and Mildred Maxwell returned in about tw twenty five minutes and reported that satisfactory arrangemen ts had been made for a swift trip down thevflood.Th They were to start in an hour and a half.Then Gertrude and Jean, engaged the use of the fastest horses and before the motorboat started with i s load of passengers they were speeding their horses down a hard macadam road tward the point which centered the interest of their scouting tour.They did not intend to go to general Vivians army that was too far but just to go some distance to try and get some tepe telephoic communication with the christian army.The city of Evangeline St Claire has a more or less fixed population of about 234,567 most of whom are retired folks of means or earn their living directly or indirectly through the supply of amusements con comfort and sustenance for the th thousands ofpleasure and recreation seekers that usually did visit the place every year before the war.They had heard that the flood near Evangeline St Claire was about five miles wide and hundred miles long.The narrowest river had been converted into a lake and at one point the waters rushed in a sort of rapids which was impassable by boats as large as sailing craft and even these craft were likely to be overturned unless handled by strong and skilful sailors.The road followed by Gertrude and Mildrev Jean in their horseback ride to a point they chosen whdh is not named here was a well kept thoroughfare running from the christian camps,in gracefully curved windings along the west borders of the Elenor Stream sometimes over a small stretch of rough or hilly shore land but usually through heavy growth of hemlock, pin e oak and varies of other trees more or less known to grow in that part of the country.Here and there along the way was an abandoned half burned cottage or coun r country house of more pretentious proportions unsually constructed near the edge of the stream or some distance up on the side of the hilll shore with a kind of terrace walk leading down to a boat landing.

The trip on the backs of these swift horses was very quickly made.They arived at a very picturesque spot not at all devoid of the verdant beauties of nature ruined elsewhere by the war, in spite als o of the fact geogrphicially it was walll named. for "Floods Plank scenery."

This name was due pric principally to a rock formed promontory, jutting out into the flood at this point and seeming to be embed deep into the lofty shore elevation.Right herehalf submerged by wa er was a large cluster of houses of all sizes, not at all huddled together, but none the-less a great number like an immense cluster when viwed from a distance down this stretch of the flood waters and in this group of once beautiful homes appeared to to on b to be once a beautiful village.But very few of the owners of those houses were living in them now.The main and central located group u in the water consisted of a hotel, a dozen bigger house, several churches, a sch ol and other structures. On arivin g at the spot Gertrude and Jean began to look about them.They were quite disappointed and decidedly puzzled at what they saw.Evidently they realized they had a considerable search before them to discover any giving spot to set up a military telegraph without exposing their move to any patrols that might be in the region or without making open inquier inquiry as to where they could form one.First they rode out upon the promontory which had a flat tabl l table like surface and was well suited for the amusing of the curiosity of tourists after the passin of the great war.There they had a good view up and down the bluff jagged, hilly and tree laden coast of the flood.

"It's nine oclock now"said Jean, looking at her wrist watch."Those in the motorboat will be here at about eleven oclock and we have on y two hours in which to get the information we are after, unless we want to share honors for success with the other girls when they arive."

"Let's take a horseback ride through this place, and see what we can see."Gertrude suggested."The road we came along runs right through it and withoutthe sligh test doubts there are m numerous other paths."

This seemed to be the best thing for them to do, and the two girlscouts started from the spot tward the " macadam highway.The latter was soon reached and they continued along this road southward and traveled hf a mile in this direction, their course keeping well along the flood shore where at this spot they saw immense masses of floating wrecks a wreckage of every description, and where foule smells al so came from.They passed a whole legion of houses half inundated by the water within their sight and half jammed as they were amid a wealth of tree foliage and wreckage thrown among them by the rushing waters and wild entanglement of shrubbery, wires nand every thing of description.Suddenly Gertrude caught hold of Jeans good arm and held her back.

"K eep out of sight.Wheelers.I see them.A big squadron at that."

They did so, but soon the cavrel cavarly had disappeared.

"While we were hiding did you hear that?"she inquired.

"Yes I sure heard something like a child crying."Jean replied.

"And the sound was not very far away either.Listen there it is again."

"I shouldn'twonder if some child slave didn't run away, and that squadron was out looking for him." said Gertrude.

At this moment they heard a half smothered sob t and thesound sound actually came from a clumb clump of bushes to the right of the road not more than half a hundred feet away .Both girlscouts started for the spot, circling round the bushes, and peering carefully, cautiously ahead of them as they advanced.They had to quickly di dismount, and duck low behind the bushes as the Glandelinians were again in sight.They were the DE Banyans. However the squadron changed their cou rse, ad listening the two girls heard the subdued sobs continuing and they followeed to the spot whence they came leading their horses wity with them.Presently they found themselves standing over the form of a little boy of foriegn appearance his frightened tear stained face turned up tward them while he shrank back into the bushes as if fearing they were Glandelinian girlscouts, though Jean and Gertrude had retained their original uniforms. The poor little fellow who ever he was retreated hastily into the bushes as vfar as he could get ad and crouched there in manifest terror.Gertrude and Jean spoke very gently, most sy mpathically to him, but with no evident result at first, except to frightened him still more, if possible.He was a runaway child slave, and of course being told lies when inthe enemys lines believed no matter what uniform a person wore was a glandelinian.

"Don't be afraid ,little boy."Jean said, reaching out her hand tward him."We are good people, Abbieannians and won't hurt you."

But he only shrank back farther, putting up his hands before his face and crying,pi"Don'T. let me be.I won't runaway any more."

"What can the matter be with him."said Jean"He doesn't seem to be demented.He's reallly afraid of something."

"Gertrude looked around carefully through the treeses and into the neigh boring bushes for the sight of approaching Glandelinians but none was near.

"I can't imagine what it can be at all."she replied."The Glandelinians are not in sight now, and they couldn't do him any harm as long as they don 't see him.But do you know Jean, I have an idea that may be worth con sidering. Supposing that Glandelinian squadron we observed twice are not out looking for him, and he may prove to be a runnawa slave."

"That could hardly be."Jean answered, dubiously."Look at his threadbare clothes and how unkempt and neglected he appeares to be.He surely doesn't look like a child slave.But he may be afraid anyhow because he's out here alone.Maybe he's a refugee strayed from someprotecting camp."

."But don't forget the cause that sent us here."Gertrude remarked to remind her."But the little las is delaying us.Yet it isnt isn't possible that this little boys fright if proof of the very condition of child slavery running away into such dangerous territory."

"Yes it can be possible."Jean replied thoughtfully."At least we ought not to neglect to find out what this means." Then turning to the crue crouching fig ure in the bushes she said;

"What is y u your name l ittle boy?Are you a child slave."

" At the qu estion "Are you a little child slave" the boy shook as with ague.

"Look out Jean he'll have a spasm" Gertrude cautioned."He thinks we are not friends but Glandelinians I suppose and are going to do somthing he doesn't want us to do.You know the penalty of child slaves runing away. He thinks we are girlscouts come to grab him and take him back.Let me talk to him;"Listen little boy"She continued adressing the pitiful crouch ing figure."We're not going to hurt you and we are not enemies.We will do just what you want us to do take you to the christian lines if you like.We'll take you where you'll be free.Will that be all right."

A relaxing of tense attitude of the boy indicated that he was somewhat reassured by these words.His little fists went suddenly to his eyes and he began to sob hysterically.Jean moved tward him with more sympathitic reassurance, when there was an interruption of pro e proceedings from a new source." A glandelinian official stepped up in front of the two girlscouts and reached forward as if toseize the juvil juvanile refugee with both hands.He was rather ultra stylishly clad for a Glandelinian officer, wearing a pleated collee college student like hat of expensive color.His face looked as cold as an ice berg.The boy ceased sobbing as he beheld this new arival and his face became white with fear while he shrank back again into the bushes as far as he could get.The stylish Glandelinian seemed to be unmoved by the new panic that seized the lad, but Gertrude interposed between him, took hold of the lad n and pulled him from his hhiding place, while Jean covered the soldier with p pistol."

"Where do you think you are going with the little brat."demanded the soldier trying to draw his pistol."

"Is that any of yor business."Gertrude snapped looking defiantly at the Glandelinian soldier who addressed her."He's in my keeping now and I'll take him back him home without any interference from a perfect Glandelinian dog.In a few other words you are a prisoner."

"A what?See here Gi l Girlscout I---I"

"I beg your pardon."Jean said saucily"You are a prisoner.You heard what she said.You ought to be shot thro though as we don't give quarter. But we'll make you cover us in case we are persued."

"Come.Make a wrong move and I'll fire too"said Gertrude as they started along a path through the timber taking the little fellow after her.

"Isn't that a shame!" Jean whispered digging her fingernails into the palms of her hands."My but I just would like to shoot---"

She stopped for want of words to express her feelings not too roitously and Gertrude still covering the prisoner, came to her relief by swinging the subject along a different track.

"Do you really believe the boy is a slave?"she inquired as she made the prisoner throw away his weapons.

"No I suppose not"Jean answered dejectedly.But you know I am really disappointed that we now have the prisoner on our hands as we won't be able to get the information we are looking for, but my heart went right out to the lad when I first saw his crouching form and whi e white face. Moreover I can hardly bear the thought of leaving him behind to be cap tured by those frosted hearted Glandelinian soldiers.

Gertrude la a laughed at the figure.

"You have painted their p icturew picturas right."she said warmly. "Come on lets go along a little ways.We have to go some for we'll try for the information anyh ow."

"I have sure painted their pi tures all right."Answered Jean."Come on, its risky but lets follow the Glandelinian cavarly we have seen.We have as much right to go that way as they have, and we must go one way anyway."

"All right lead the way."Gertrude said, with smiling emphasis on the "way" to a direct attention to little Jeans phonetic repetition.

The latter started along the path that had been taken by the squadron of Glandelinians having forced the Glandelinian to walk while they rode, his hands being tied tightly behind his back, and a str rope to tied around him and fastened to the hose so he couldn't make a break to run away.The two girlscouts in advance, with the boy riding in front of Gertrude now, but still sobbing were by this timeout of sight of any enemies beyon d a thicket of bushes and small trees.However the gi l girlscouts did not hasten their steps or their horses rather as they profered to trust to the path to guide their hoses rather than a full view of the Glandelinian squadron they sought to follow.In fact too thet preferred to the elements of chance rather than run a risk of arousin g the suspicion of Gladelin ian squadrons.Only once did they catch sight of the Glandelinians in the course of their hesitating persuit, and this view was so satisfactory that they stopped short in order to avoidpossible detection if any of the Glandelinian cavarly men should happen to look back.A turn in the path brought them to the hip of the elevation where the ground began to slope down to the waters edge and near the dow ward bend of this shore hill was a large rustic cottage,with an equally rustic garage for wagons to the e rear and on one side a cleared space which would have been taken for a tenn is court.

At the door of the cottage was seated on a horse a Glandelinian general, and a little beyond was a group of Glandelinian generals.The leading one was general Johnstonia Jackenie Manley, the others were Bicknell, Jesipine Jensin, Meldonia Bicknell, and others. Far beyond could be seen a vast Glandelinian camp, and the smoke clouds of many day tim camp fires.

"Fine."Exclaimed Gertrude under her breath."So Manleys army is closer than we thought."Things have turned out just right.If that should prove to be a portion of Manleys army which must have retreated then we have som god information.If not then it's another Manley going to the aid of his son.If that is so we must have it prevented.I'm going to notify Uncle.We couldn't wish for better information.Come on Angeline lets go back through the timber and approach this camp from another direction.They musn't suspect that we have come upon them.As to you too"she aded to the prisoner"Remember if you say one word or utter the slightest sound, we won't need your presence any more.We'll get free of you.Understand?"

"What do you mean."?"Demanded the prisoner.

"You know what I mean.We girlscouts usally don't give any quarter, and you ought to be thankful we spred you."

Cautiously Gertrude, and Jean withdrew, the prisoner being forced to follow,and they drew from the path into a thicket and thence retreated along the path by which they had approached the house.They continued their retreat to the point where the path joined the main road and where grew the thicket within which they had discovered the frightened runaway child slave, and whom they now had in their possession.He wasn't crying much now, and felt more reassured, for he began to realized if they were enekies of the christians, they wouldn't do this to the man who had attempted to harm him.

"Now I tell you what we ought to do."Gertrude said."We ought to follow this road about a mile, maybe, to get a vew of the lay of the land and then return to this pot, or at least near it.We can get the information we want after we learn more of the camping possibilities of this neighbor hood for the enemy and can talk intellegently when we begin to make inquiries.By the way Angeline"she continued as she glanced at the prisoner "how much English do you know?"

"Quite a god deal."

"Then let's talk english so this prisoner won't know what we are saying.I knowpositively he doesn't understand."

"All right here goes"said Jean"And when we get back"She aded(in english now) we will go to some neighborin g house and ask all about whose Glandelin ian army it might be, and all about who lives here, who lives there and of course we will be particular to ask the name of the enemy general in main charge that is if there are any people bold en ough to stay in this neighborhood where the enemy is so close?"

"That's the very idea."Gertrude agreed enthusiasitically."But we haven't

any time to waste, for it is nearly olef 1 eleven oclock now and we have a littlemore than half an hour to work in if the motorboat arives on time.We had better not try to ride a mile--half a mile will be enough,maybe only a quarter just enough to enable us to talk intellagently about the lay of the land right around here and how the enemy might bepositioned."

They rode south alon g the road road nearly half a mile, found a path which led directly tward the lake, followed it untill within view of the waters edge of the flood, satisfied themselves that the enemy was camped most excellantly in all the region within sight and a long the shore in this region, and then avoiding for patrols started back.They passed three or four cottages on their way, but they were vacant.

"Finally they met with suddenly and unexpectedly a group of child slaves being conducted down the road by an overseer.They were all little girls, and the overseer was a hog faced woman in comfortable domestic at ire.

St "Stop woman"said Gertrude."

"What do you want girlscout in lavander."she demanded in a surly tone.

"If you wish to retain those slaves I demand of you some information. Whose glandalin ian army is that yonder, and to whom is it going?"

"I'm not allowed to tell."she snapped."You girlscouts of the dirty Christian dogs are always spying on us Glandalinians.It's none of your business." She started to go on, giving a hoarse order to the slaves.

"Not a step farther"said Gertrude drawing her pistol."Those slaves belong to me and you're a prisoner unless you give me the information."

The woman was startled, but the look too in Gertrudes eyes showed she meant business,and to save her own life, she readily answered Gertrudes questions, and touwith a readiness that bespoke familiarly with the neigh go neighborhood n and acquaintance with her neighbors and the army itself in general.Gertrude and Jean experienced no slight difficulty in concealing their eager satisfaction, when the woman they were questio| questioning said| said;"The right wing of the glandelinian is over yonder under general Pruitts and wilmington, those just south of us are the Nicknellians, and those just south of the Nicknellians, are the Surmaranniens.I am not vesy well acquainted with that army but it is not John Hanleys.That army is southward bound."

The girls then thanked the woman very warmly for this information and then hurred away with their slave and prisoner.

"We don't need to send a telegram to general Vivians now"Jean said as they hastened back t to the road."We have all the information that we want.The next thing for us to do is to get back to the place we first leftand meet the boat when it comes in and have a talk with the other girls I suppose our first move then ought to dispose of our prisoner, and then sent a telegram to general Vivian."

The girls kept up their rapid talk, and urged their horses on untill within a few hundred feet of the drive that led from the main road to the distant enemy position.Then they slowed slowed up a little as they saw a squadron of Glandelin ian cavarly approaching ahead of them, and then hide themselves out of sight.The column also slowed up as it neared the drive.suddenly Jean exclaimed under her breath;

"They are going to stop.I wonder what for!"

"Yes and there's something familiar in the appearance of the officer in command."Gertrude said slowly."Why."----

She did not finish the sentence for the column of troopers was so near she was afraid she would be heard.But there was no need for her to say what she had inhermind to say. Jean recognized the man as soon as she did.

"Be careful"Gertrude warned."Don't let them see us.Just wait till they pass.They are Hobbonites and the general in charge is the Glandelinian general Blain Blain Night Linger."

But the column did not pass as expected.Alo Although although slowing up the column did not stop and for the first time the girls realized the probable nature of the column.

"Oh Jean "Gertrude whispred"He's turning in tward the enmy lines."

"I bet he has come here towarn them against us."Jean returned."That's Jeff".

"It must be something of the kind."Gertrude agreed,and then the near approach of the Glandelinians rendered unwise any further con versation on the subkec subject.bThey were within one hundred feet of the foe column as it turned on the drive and found they had all they could doto preserve a calm and unperturbed demeanor as they saw the keen searching gaze of the squint eye of mr "Jeff."